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Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Mubarak-Al-Asad Talks

Al-Asad Meets Egyptian Reporters

NC0305191690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1729 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 3 May (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad stated today that his talks with President Husni Mubarak touched on many topics. The talks basically aimed at deepening the understanding between the two countries over these topics and strengthening bilateral relations to restore them to what they had been and what they ought to be.

Speaking to the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers and media reporters who accompanied President Mubarak during his visit to Syria, President al-Asad said Syria believes cooperation between the two countries needs to be comprehensive, covering all aspects. He noted that ministers and officials from the two countries had held talks to establish methods for achieving this cooperation.

President al-Asad underlined his and President Mubarak's desire to see an effective Arab solidarity and their eagerness for inter-Arab action to rise above trivial matters, so that the Arab world could adapt to the developments of the age and be in a position to deal with the harsh changes in today's world.

President al-Asad pointed out that, although his talks with President Mubarak were detailed, issues need more than just one meeting. He stressed that Egypt and Syria look forward to achieving Arab solidarity, but the road is still long and it will require effort. However, he added, Egyptian-Syrian cooperation will drive inter-Arab action forward.

President al-Asad noted that his visit to Cairo could take place soon, adding that he had discussed this matter with President Mubarak.

Regarding Syrian-Iraqi relations, President al-Asad said: President Mubarak emphasized more than once his eagerness to see good relations between Syria and Iraq, but he and many other Arab leaders realize that the gap between the two countries is still wide and that this could take time and effort, but things may get better as time goes by.

Concerning the Arab summit, President al-Asad said: We want the Arab summit to be held. My brother President Mubarak, other Arab leaders, and I have underlined the need for such a summit to discuss international developments, evaluate the Arab and international situation, and find ways to promote the national interests of the Arab nation.

President al-Asad mentioned that he was astonished to hear calls for holding the summit in a predesignated place. He said that it was customary to let the venue and agenda of the summit be determined through consultations among Arab capitals.

The Syrian president said that the door is still open for consultations among the Arabs. He noted that goodwill is necessary for the achievement of common aspirations and the promotion of common interests. He called for holding the Arab summit in a noncontroversial place and after consultations among Arab capitals.

As for the prospects of a visit to Damascus by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, President al-Asad said that the gates of Damascus are open to all Arabs.

Concerning efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated Syria's insistence on the convocation of an international conference and its rejection of separate talks. He said: Our land and our rights must be restored. We will not give up one inch of our land or accept any measure that does not apply to both sides of the borders.

As for ties between Syria and the Soviet Union, President al-Asad stressed Moscow's support to Damascus and the Arab issue. He said that his recent talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev reassured him of the steadiness of Soviet support and of Moscow's continued denunciation of Israel's aggression, expansionism, and nuclear programs.

President al-Asad said that during his visit to Moscow he heard nothing that would confirm reports in Western circles concerning Moscow's halt of weapon supply shipments to Syria. He said: We may disagree or discuss the quantity or quality, but their support will not cease and their assistance is continuing.

As for the issue of strategic balance with Israel, President al-Asad said that this balance is not just military, but cultural, social, and economic.

Lebanon, Iraq Discussed

JN0305184790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Egyptian sources have reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Cairo this month to complete his talks with President Mubarak. The sources added that Syrian and Iraqi officials might meet in Cairo in the near future. What the Egyptian sources said about talks between the two Arab leaders was reported by Mustafa Bakri, our correspondent in Cairo.

[Begin Bakri recording] The sources stressed that during their lengthy meetings yesterday, the two leaders discussed a number of important pan-Arab issues. President Mubarak presented to his Syrian counterpart a number of ideas to resolve the Lebanese problem. These included reaching an agreement on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, rejecting any foreign influence on Lebanese security, agreeing to an ideal political formula that prevents any divisions among the country's political factions, and guaranteeing these factions' cooperation by agreeing to a unified economic and political reform formula. Syria agreed in principle to the Egyptian ideas in this regard. The two leaders also agreed that the

Lebanese Government should be able to spread its authority to all of the Lebanese territory and all Lebanese should support a pan-Arab plan aimed at rescuing Lebanon from sedition and internal conflict. Also the al-Ta'if accord should in the meantime be implemented.

In another development, it has been learned that President al-Asad told his Egyptian counterpart that he is ready to improve political relations with Iraq. Accordingly, the sources expected a meeting between Syrian and Iraqi officials in Cairo in the near future as a first step toward direct contacts between the two sides. A meeting might also be held between the two countries' foreign ministers with the participation of the Arab Cooperation Council's foreign ministers with the aim of clearing the atmosphere between them—but after holding consultations with Iraq in this regard.

Concerning the peace process in the region, the two sides agreed that the international conference should be the basic means toward an overall solution to the conflict, provided that all the steps preceding the convocation of this conference are taken to set the stage for the conference and not to conclude agreements with Israel. [end recording]

Efforts Continue for Emergency Arab Summit

LD0305103290 Kuwait KUNA in English 0746 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpts] Kuwait, May 3 (KUNA)—Serious Arab efforts are currently underway to secure Syria's participation in a proposed emergency Arab summit slated for later this month in Baghdad, Palestinian ambassador to Tunisia and the Arab League, Hakam Bal'awi has said.

Bal'awi was quoted by Kuwaiti daily AL-QABAS, published here Thursday, as saying that the Israeli threats also target Syria as they target Iraq.

Meanwhile, the paper said that a high-ranking Arab official will soon tour Baghdad and Damascus in addition to other major Arab capitals within current preparations for conveying the extraordinary Arab summit conference.

The final countdown for holding such a high-level gathering in fact has already started in Baghdad after 15 Arab countries officially informed the Arab League secretariat general of their participation, the paper said. [passage omitted]

In Beirut, press reports said Thursday that a Saudi envoy will visit the Syrian and Iraqi capitals to discuss issues concerning arrangements of the summit.

Daily AL-SAFIR, published today, quoted "well-informed" Arab sources based in Paris as saying Saudi Arabia will send a ranking envoy to Damascus and Baghdad to coordinate stances and clear atmosphere before the summit

The sources said arrangements would continue to hold the summit despite the facat that some Arab states did not announce their stances yet.

Arab diplomatic sources in Baghdad were quoted by the paper as saying that 'Arafat will soon visit Damascus to invite President Hafiz al-Asad to participate in the summit, the paper said.

It added that President al-Asad and Egyptian leader Husni Mubarak, who is currently on a visit to Syria, are expected to discuss the summit.

Iraqi-Turkish Joint Committee Begin Meetings

JN0305200690 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Baghdad—Meetings of the 10th session of the Iraqi-Turkish Joint Committee for Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation began today. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister and acting finance minister, led the Iraqi side to the meetings, and Isin Celebi, minister of state, led the Turkish side.

During its meetings, the committee will discuss what has been implemented of the previous session's resolutions and recommendations, in addition to assessing the level of trade cooperation, means of promoting it, and issues related to economic, financial, scientific, and technical cooperation.

Several specialized technical committees were formed during the meeting to discuss topics on the agenda.

The Iraqi delegation included representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation, Industry and Military Industrialization, Oil, Planning, Transport and Communications, Finance, Housing and Construction, Higher Education and Scientific Research, and Foreign Affairs; the Central Bank; and the al-Rafidayn and al-Rashid Banks. The Turkish side included representatives of the counterpart ministries and institutions.

Palestinian Affairs

Officials Comment on Mubarak's Syria Visit

NC0305152290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1349 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—Palestine National Council Secretary Muhammad Subayh has described President Husni Mubarak's visit to Damascus and his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as extremely important for consolidating Egyptian-Syrian relations in the critical circumstances the Arab nation is experiencing at present.

In a statement to MENA, Muhammad Subayh said that President Mubarak's visit to Syria could pave the way for sound inter-Arab relations. He emphasized that President Mubarak enjoys great confidence among the Arab leaders and he can utilize this confidence in bringing about an Arab consensus to confront the challenges that Arab nations are facing. He added that the most serious challenges are Jewish immigration to Palestine and the establishment of an Arab economic system.

The Palestinian official expressed his hope that President Mubarak's visit will be crowned with success, that a Palestinian-Egyptian-Syrian-Iraqi meeting will be held as soon as possible preparatory to the forthcoming Arab summit, and that every effort will be made to resolve the Lebanese problem.

Meanwhile, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo, has lauded the continuous efforts President Husni Mubarak is exerting on the various levels to unite the Arab ranks in the service of the pan-Arab issues.

The Palestinian official said that President Mubarak's visit to Damascus is regarded as a step for uniting ranks, achieving goals, and overcoming all obstacles. He pointed out that the current phase requires more sacrifices and understanding from all of us. It also requires that we confront Israel, who is trying to usurp Arab land.

Al-Qidrah added: We welcome President Mubarak's visit and his talks with the Syrian president and we look forward to a new page of clear and frank relations between Syria and Iraq and between Syria and the PLO in order to create a strong Arab stand.

Talks on Jerusalem with U.S. Official Reported

PM0405110490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 May 90 pp 1-2

[By Zaki Shihab]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Diplomatic sources in the British capital yesterday revealed the U.S. Administration's intention to issue an official statement confirming its rejection of the resolution adopted by the U.S. Senate last week demanding Jerusalem's recognition as Israel's capital.

The diplomatic sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a senior U.S. Administration official met in the past 48 hours with a prominent Palestinian figure and promised that the statement would be issued within the next few days to confirm the U.S. Administration's known position on Jerusalem, without the Senate's decision having any effect on the legal status of Jerusalem, which is treated as an occupied city.

The sources said that at the meeting the Palestinian figure discussed with the U.S. official a number of fundamental points regarding the Palestinian question and its developments.

At the forefront of these issues were the recent Congress decision on Jerusalem, the Israeli Government crisis, peace prospects, the danger of the Jewish influx from the Soviet Union to the occupied Arab territories, and the Yitzhaq Shamir government's support for schemes to settle them in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel's practices against Arab residents and the massacres committed against them in several towns, villages, and Palestinian camps were also broached with the U.S. official.

At the meeting the U.S. official stated the U.S. Administration's intention to ask the Israeli authorities soon to allow large numbers of Palestinian families to return and live in the occupied territories within the framework of the so-called reunion process. With regard to the political situation in Israel, the U.S. official told the prominent Palestinian figure that, since Yitzhaq Shamir has been entrusted with forming the government, he now faces three possibilities: first, to succeed in forming it, remain prime minister for six months, and then call an election; or to succeed in forming a government with a small majority, stay for a short a period of time, and then call an election.

The third possibility is for Yitzhaq Rabin, after the elections, to form a government which agrees with the U.S. peace plan announced by Secretary of State James Baker.

The discussions broached the negative effect on the situation of the deadlocked peace efforts and the Arab summit which Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat is making intensified efforts to convene in order to discuss various developments.

Pelletreau Receives Note

JN0305183990 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The PLO has categorically rejected and vigorously condemned the U.S. House of Representatives resolution endorsing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. It also reiterated its adherence to the inalienable right to Jerusalem as capital of its independent Palestinian state as well as the incontestable Arab and Muslim rights in the holy city. This came in an official protest note presented by the PLO representative in Tunis brother Hakam Bal'awi to U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau.

In a statement published in Tunis today, Bal'awi said the PLO note stressed that the resolution runs counter to international legitimacy and fosters Israel's belligerence and expansionism, and therefore poses a grave threat to the peace process and all efforts to propel it forward. The note also sought to impress on the U.S. Administration the need to reconsider and reverse the resolution.

The Palestinian official said he handed the American ambassador another note regarding the U.S. Administration's hostile policies and its intense pressure to block the Palestinian state's bid to join world organizations. The note expressed surprise at the insistence of the American Administration to continue to deny our Palestinian people their rights and called on the U.S. Administration to halt its anti-Palestinian effort.

PLO Official Condemns U.S. on Emigration

JN0305111590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 May 90 p 7

[By Wafa' 'Amr in Amman]

[Excerpts] Abu-'Ali Mustafa, [Mustafa al-Zibri], PLO Executive Committee member and member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has said that the PLO is calling for an Arab summit to counter Jewish emigration to Palestinian territories on the condition that this summit adopt procedural decisions, including economic measures against U.S. interests and a boycott of all airlines transporting Jewish emigres to occupied Palestine.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR, the Palestinian official said: "We do not want a political statement from the summit. If we are to curb immigration conclusively, the Jews need to come under fire. Otherwise, they will remain reassured that they are coming to a country that guarantees their safety."

Abu-'Ali Mustafa, who is visiting Jordan for the first time in 20 years, said: When the USSR decided to allow the Jews to emigrate, it did not consider the interests of the Palestinian people. If it had done so, it would have managed to link the issue of emigration to the convening of the international conference, or at least to any step suggesting a Soviet desire to find a solution to the Palestine question.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa rejected Soviet justifications that the emigration is based on human rights and the Helsinki resolutions. He asked: "What kind of human rights are these that are given at the expense of Palestinian human rights? Does the Soviet Union not understand the meaning of human rights? I think it does, but this is a deal, the origin of which, I believe, is not the Helsinki resolutions, but the Jackson-Vanick amendment adopted by the U.S. Congress in the seventies, which stipulates that those countries most privileged in receiving food supplies be those that allow Jews to emigrate."

The Palestinian official said the United States bears the major responsbility for "participating in the crime," because it opened the obligatory routes and did not give the emigres the chance to choose their destinations. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian official called on the Arabs to reconsider their relations with the United States, saying that Washington held all parties prisoners of a little game. Basically, he explained, the United States is in no hurry to resolve the Middle East conflict; it has hindered all efforts, blocked international resolutions, and waged battles so that the PLO cannot become a member of WHO or UNESCO.

He added that the United States believes the peace process in the region can only move when three factors are present: first, when the intifadah is crushed through violence or politics—both lead to the same result, containing and then undermining the intifadah; second, when the Arabs abandon the slogan of independent Palestinian state and look for other options; and third, when the USSR and Europe give up the call for convening the international conference and replace the conference by separate and bilateral deals.

He said when all these factors become available, as desired by the United States, the peace process will be pushed forward toward a settlement to the liking of the U.S.—a settlement even worse than Camp David.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa referred to the Soviet position on the international conference and said that Western Europe now adheres to the conference more than "the close friend" the Soviet Union does. He explained that Western Europe is seeking a solution to the Middle East crisis through an international conference becuase it feels that it cannot carry weight in the political equation except through such a confernece. Seperate deals leave Western Europe with no role to play, he added. [passage omitted]

On the climate of openness currently witnessed by Jordan, Abu-'Ali Mustafa said he believes this climate is inseparable from the ongoing national battle against the Zionist enemy.

He added: "We consider Israel's threats to Jordan harmful to the Palestine question. We are not, therefore, indifferent. On the contrary, we feel that we are waging the same battle to confront Israel's designs, especially the scheme of the alternative homeland, which is equally harmful to both Jordanians and Palestinians. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Abu-Sharif Criticizes USSR

LD0305124690 Kuwait KUNA in English 0827 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Tunis, May 3 (KUNA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, the information adviser for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Thursday strongly criticized the Soviet Union's stance toward the Jews' emigration to occupied Palestine, adding the United States, the Soviet Union and Israel were colluding.

Abu-Sharif was quoted by the [Tunisian] ANBA' daily as saying those parties deal with the Soviet Jews as a commodity and a war machine to exploit other people.

He said the Soviet Union was sending Jews to occupied Arab territories in return for American investments on its oil.

Reportage on Faruq Qaddumi's Visit to Chile

WA0405121890

For coverage of Faruq Qaddumi's visit to Chile and his meeting with President Aylwin, see the Chile section of the 3 May issue of the Latin America DAILY REPORT.

OPEC Affairs

Sadek Boussena Describes OPEC Agreement

LD0305164790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1355 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Geneva, May 3 (KUNA)—At the end of the two days of hectic consultations during the emergency meeting here Thursday, a unanimous decision was reached by 13

oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to collectively cut back production by 1.445 million barrels per day with immediate effect. Briefing the media soon after an agreement was reached after numerous group and inter-group meeting between the oil ministers, the OPEC president, Sadek Boussena, Algeria's oil minister, said the agreement was supported by all the 13 oil ministers present—including the United Arab Emirates [UAE], which did not participate in the November, 1989 agreement.

The agreement to cut production comes into effect this May and will last until the end of July, when the situation is going to be assessed again. This will be done during the course of the next ordinary meeting of OPEC to be held in Geneva from 25 July.

Asked to comment on how the decision would be put into effect, Boussena said the collective decision by OPEC oil ministers had basically two elements. One, that the member countries who were overproducing compared to the quotas allocated to them last November would go back to their quotas. And, secondly, that the other member countries who were producing below their quotas, have also decided to contribute in the reduction exercise by a 'certain physical quantity'. Iran, Iraq, Algeria, Indonesia and Qatar are among this group of countries.

Asked about how much UAE would reduce its production by, Boussena indicated that a reduction of 200,000 barrels per day would be affected in this case from the 'actual production' but declined to comment on what the latter figure was.

Asked whether three Gulf states had raised the issue of raising their quotas, the OPEC president said the meeting was of an emergency nature and therefore, quotas were not discussed. That and other key issues would be taken up at the July meeting of OPEC.

The sixth meeting of the OPEC eight-member market monitoring committee was convened here May 2 specifically to address the over-supply situation in the oil market, with a view to taking corrective measures that would effectively restore market stability. Reference price for the basket of OPEC crude had reached a very low level of 14.5 dollars a barrel on 3 April, 1990—which was 'dangerous and painful' to the exporting countries in terms of revenues, the OPEC president pointed out.

An assessment report of the current oil market situation was presented to the oil ministers by the secretary general of OPEC, Dr. Subroto. With more facts emanating during the emergency meeting, it was confirmed that the total oil production during the month of April 1990 by the 13 member oil producers was 23.5 million barrels per day.

On account of the above reasons and taking into consideration the projected demand for oil until the end of July, the unanimous and collective decision was taken by the ministers to cut back production by 1.445 MBD [million barrels per day]. This decision goes into effect from the beginning of [words indistinct]. Expressing his optimism regarding the positive signals that should go to the international oil markets, the Algerian minister said, 'it is our hope and conviction that OPEC will withdraw a big quantity from the market—which today is considered as surplus.'

Meanwhile, the organisation would have an 'open-mind' to problems and issues raised by individual countries and would discuss them in detail after the specific 'transitory period of three months' during the next ordinary conference of OPEC, to be held in Geneva from 25 July.

Asked whether after the present agreement, if the reference price of oil were to go up higher than 18 dollars per barrel, the committee would meet again, Boussena said 'our agreement is to have a minimum reference price, not to put a ceiling on it.'

Algeria

Ghazali Discusses Issues with John Kelly

LD0305105190 Algiers APS in English 1004 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Algiers, 34 May (APS)—Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali received Wednesday here the U.S. Under Secretary of State, John Kelly, presently touring three Maghreb countries.

Talks held on this occasion centered on a number of regional and international political questions. Dealing with the latest developments in the Middle East, Sid Ahmed Ghazali expressed the deep concern of Algeria before the persistence of the policy of the mass colonization of Palestine and the passivity of the international community mainly the superpowers who have particular responsibilities in the area before the expansionism of Israel and the violation of the holy status of Jerusalem.

Concerning the situation in Lebanon, John Kelly on his turn hailed the contribution of Algeria in the realization of the Ta'if agreement and reached with Ghazali an identify of views of the two countries before the urgent necessity of the return to peace by multiform support and aid to the legitimate government of president Ilyas al-Hirawi.

The Algerian foreign minister also dealt with the evolution of the process of the edification of the Arab Maghreb in its political, economic and social dimensions, pointing out in this context that Algeria has constantly called for the creation and multiplication of regional gatherings in Africa and in the Arab world in order to lead to a progressive economic integration and a redefinition of the North-South cooperation.

Finally, Ghazali told his interlocutor that Algeria has renewed to the UN secretary general its support for the organization of a referendum of self-determination without any military or administrative constraints in Western Sahara so as to enable the Sahrawi people to decide on their own destiny. John Kelly also expressed the support of the USA to efforts of the UN secretary general for the settlement of this conflict.

Algerian Renewal Party Opens Congress

LD0305141590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The proceedings of the constituent congress of the Algerian Renewal Party [PRA] began in the oval hall of the 5 July Olympic complex in Algiers this morning with the participation of about 1,000 delegates. Our correspondent is on the line:

[Correspondent] After the congresses held by the Social Democratic Party and the Rally for Culture and Democracy last year, today was the turn of the Algerian Renewal Party to hold its constituent congress. At the oval hall of the 5 July Olympic complex, the proceedings of the constituent congress of the PRA began at about 1040 with the participation of about 800 delegates from various wilayas. Before the start of the proceedings, Koranic verses were read out to the participants, after which the congress was declared officially open.

One of the officials in charge of organization then announced the names of the nine members who belong to the constituent bureau. After the internal regulations of the constitutent congress were read out—including the regulation that the congress's official spokesman is the only person entitled to make any statement to the national and international press—Mr. Nourreddine Boukrouh was asked to speak.

Mr. Boukrouh, who began his address with Koranic verses, said that if his party represented the opposition that did not mean that it was in the minority, but the entire nation is in the opposition—whether that opposition was organized or not. He added that we, the political parties, must turn this opposition into a force for renewal instead of a force for (?replacing) the regime, and this without undermining the bases of our common life and the context in which we live. He went on to say that the pressing thing to do in the present circumstances is not to suggest to our people to be governed by the communists, or the Berbers, or the capitalists, or the fundamentalists; what our people ask for is to be presented with a general project that will take them out of the crisis—a project that is thought up by Algerians who are competent, honest, democratic, and Muslim.

Mr. Boukrouh also called for the formation of a council of national accord and the establishment of a national dialogue between the political parties in the national interest in spite of the differences and the contradictions in their political programs.

Mr. Abderrahmane Adjerid, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, was then asked to speak. Mr. Adjerid spoke in his capacity as the official spokesman of the Democratic Alliance of the Center which was announced at the Aurassi Hotel yesterday. The Alliance comprises five opposition parties. Mr. Adjerid said that the alliance was not directed against any specific party but was created in the interests of the homeland.

After him, a number of guests representing political parties and associations, spoke. They included the Popular Association for Unity and Action, the National Party for Solidarity and Development, the Socialist Avant-Guarde Party, the National Algerian Party, and the Association for the Defense and Promotion of Women's Rights.

The proceedings of the constitutent congress are continuing at this moment and the morning session is due to adjourn at about 1330. The proceedings will resume later today.

Three Policemen Injured in Tissemsilt Clashes

LD0305144190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Public disorders occurred in the Derb quarter, in the town of Tissemsilt yesterday evening at the end of the operations carried out by the local authorities to destroy buildings put up without planning permission. These buildings, according to municipal sources, were being built secretly during the night and at weekends.

According to APS, three policemen were injured during these incidents. The demonstrators also caused damage to some municipal equipment and to street lamps and neon signs.

Egypt

President Mubarak Returns From Damascus Talks

NC0305144890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1418 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo from Damascus at 1530 today following a two-day visit to Syria. During the visit, President Mubarak held extensive talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on current Arab and international issues and the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Joint Committee Established

NC0305160890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1427 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 3 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' signed an agreement today to establish a higher Egyptian-Syrian joint committee co-chaired by the two countries' prime ministers.

According to the agreement, the committee's task will be to explore all fields of cooperation between the two countries, particularly economic, cultural, scientific, technical, social, information, touristic, and energy with a view to achieving bilateral integration. The agreement stipulates the promotion of bilateral trade and the establishment of coordination in the financial and banking sectors between the two countries. It calls for holding meetings between officials to discuss joint ventures to boost development in both Egypt and Syria in agriculture, industry, tourism, and trade. The agreement also defines ways to encourage joint investments involving the public, private, and mixed-economy sectors in all these fields and to facilitate the transfer of capital.

MENA has learned that the Egyptian-Syrian joint committee will meet once every six month alternately in either Cairo or Damascus. The first meeting will be held in Cairo at a date to be announced later.

The agreement stipulates that the joint committee may set up subcommittees and permanent or temporary working groups to carry out the tasks assigned to it, and that a preparatory committee at the ministerial and expert level will meet to prepare for the meeting of the higher committee. The agreement stipulated that its duration will be five years with an automatic renewal.

Al-Fayyum Killings Detailed, Background Given

JN0305191890 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 May 90 p 8

[By Mahir Najib and 'Ala' 'Abd-al-Hadi]

[Excerpt] Last Monday, Ibshaway in al-Fayyum was the scene of a tragedy.

In one of the bloodiest confrontations between a police force and an extremist religious group split from the Jihad group, fourteen leading members of the group were killed and four seriously wounded.

What took place on that sanguinary day?

What is the story of the conflict between the group and the people on the one hand and the security forces on the other? And how did the situation reach a head?

For an on-the-spot investigation, AL-AKHBAR reporters went to the scene of the confrontation—the village of Kahk.

The time: 0700 on Monday.

The place: The village of Kahk in al-Fayyum Governorate.

The atmosphere is tense and charged, the village being a center of the New Jihad Group which broke away from the group of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa had ordered the leaders of the group arrested.

Most of them had fled to nearby villages and fields. On the morning of that day, 'Ali Mahmud Khalid, the shaykh of Kahk and regular watchman Mustafa Muhammad 'Id coincidentally saw two wanted leaders of the group in a village house. When they proceeded to apprehend them—and the two were armed—one fled and started shooting at the watchman and the shaykh, hitting the first in the leg and causing bruises to the second. The second attacker managed to flee the scene. After the incident, group members declared an emergency, took to the village streets and started shooting in all directions to intimidate the village people. They closed off the entrances to the village, severed telephone and power lines, and broke into the homes of those they suspected of denouncing them to the police. They opened fire on their electric appliances.

In a serious development, a peasant called 'Ali 'ali Dukhil, attempted to talk his young sons Dukhil, Ibrahim, and Mahran out of cutting telephone lines and into surrendering themselves to the police. Having refused to

oblige their father, an argument ensued and then one of the boys shot at his father who was killed on the spot. The village people, who were watching, fled in panic to the safety of their homes.

The village headman then called for help from Brigadier General Faruq Muhanna, who is in charge of Ibshaway, and requested prompt intervention to lift the siege that kept children from their schools and men from reporting to work.

A large joint force of police and the Central Security and the Security Directorate then moved to the scene. They were also joined by forces of the Special Operations Directorate and led by Major General Hilmi al-Faqi, assistant to the interior minister.

Arriving at the besieged village approaches, the joint force was fired at from all directions. The two sides took up positions and a three-hour battle ensued in which 14 leaders of the group were killed and four others seriously wounded. Two Central Security officers and ten policemen received various injuries. Rifles, pistols, and bullets as well as home-made bombs were seized. Monday's events were the accumulation and result of a series of incidents that had brought things to a head.

Approximately a year ago, a self-styled New Jihad Group, broke away from Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's group. In the eyes of the leader of the defecting group—Shawqi Rizq al-Shaykh, an agronomist—'Abd-al-Rahman's group was too moderate and the solution in his opinion lay in adopting a more violent approach that called for recruiting youths of under 25 years from the villages of Sinaru, Upper and Lower Kahk, al-'Alawiyah, and al-Rawashidah in the Ibshaway center.

The group went about commiting a series of crimes that were documented by police.

A member of the group hurled a bomb at al-Fayyum General Hospital while a party to entertain patients was on, injuring two staff members and a nine-year-old girl.

Two bombs were thrown at al-Fayyums' major square of al-Qarun injuring nine people —including two tourists.

A bomb was hurled at a wedding reception in the Dar-al-Ramad neighborhood injuring six guests.

Last month saw things become ominously more frequent.

Things returned to normal in al-Fayyum following attempts to stir sedition after a young girl was assaulted by a wicked man—his religion is immaterial. Some sought to use the incident to create sedition, and police apprehended some instigators.

Thursday before last, before the iftar, a bomb was hurled at the chief sentry standing guard outside the al-'Adhra' church in Sanhur killing a police sergeant and injuring an officer. Police investigations revealed that the attacker was an active leader of the New Jihad Group called Sayyid Ta'ta' (an electrician). When the police went to arrest him, he opened fire and in the ensuing shootout he was killed.

This was followed by the murder of Mujahid Abu-al-Ghayt—the watchman of Zayd village—by Shawqi Rizq al-Shaykh, leader of the dissident faction who had snatched his automatic rifle. Witnesses came forward to say he was the killer. When police went to arrest him he opened fire and was shot and killed. Muhammad Yusuf took over as leader of the group.

Major General Ibrahim al-Shaykh Musa'id says the group is espousing an aberrant, senseless and irreligious ideology. They sanction sex with other men's wives and the stealing of money from whoever dissents with their ideology. The group's leader has set himself up as prince of the faithful and his wife princess of the faithful women.

They pray only together. Whoever is at loggerheads with their ideology is for them an infidel who deserves what ill befalls him. Two of the group were caught rustling and then selling the cattle as rightfully theirs. Some of them also set fire to the kiosk of Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Azim, because he had rejected their thoughts.

Perhaps most strange of all, their dead leader had attacked a man and injured him because the latter had heard the koran on a cassette recording.

Some of them had also prevented a villager from bringing a teacher from a religious institute who had come to recite some religious chants arguing this was taboo. They were also said by police documents to have destroyed crops of village people for no reason other than that the latter do not go along with their narrow-mindedness. [passage omitted]

Death Toll Rises to 16

JN0305201290 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 May 90 p 1

[By Wajdi al-Zayn and Ahmad Jubayli]

[Excerpt] Al-Fayyum—A responsible security source reports that the death toll of bloody incidents involving police forces and the New Jihad Group in the village of Kahk in al-Fayyum has risen to 16. Five officers from the Cairo security force were injured, in addition to two officers from the al-Fayyum security force, two regular watchmen, and three extremists. A report prepared by Lieutenant Colonel Yusri 'Abd-al-Fattah, an expert in explosives, shows that the bombs seized during the recent riots are identical to those used in the incident at the al-Fayyum public hospital. The bombs contain nails and explosive substances and can kill if they hit people directly. The police forces have detained four more people accused of taking part in the riots. They belong to the group of Shawqi al-Shaykh, who was killed. [passage omitted]

Editorial Analyzes Coptic Role in Islamic State

JN0305172190 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
1 May 90 pp 1, 4

[Editorial by Chief Editor 'Adil Husayn: "You Muslims and Copts, Who Are the Extremists?"]

[Text] In his last speech to mark Laylat al-Qadr [night observed last 10 days of Ramadan during which the Koran was revealed], President Mubarak stated that Islam was the solution and the accepted basis for political action in this country. His remarks are in line with the declared stand of the Socialist Labor Party [SLP] which was the cause for scathing criticism leveled against us by the security organs and state-owned news media.

President Mubarak's speech showed that the Islamic solution is no longer the demand of a single opposition party. The political leadership of the country is nowadays saying: "If our nation is to revive its past glories and surmount its daily problems, it must embrace the Koran as a a guide and a way of life." I have expressed this concept in the last two issues of AL-SHA'B. We would like to explore and discuss the Copts' role in building Egypt's future. We have said that we must discuss this role within the Islamic perspective which has been espoused by the nation with the exception of an isolated secularist minority which has continued to reject and overlook this perspective.

In this regard, I would like to answer a question that has been raised on several occasions. The question pertains to the fact that extremism is found among Christians and not only among Muslims.

This is the question that has been addressed to me: What is your definition of extremism and extremists? I would say that an extremist is he who is arrogant and overbearing and who does not care about the opinions, existence, or interests of others. Some people insist on forcing their opinions on others. They refuse to listen to others and fail to understand their problems. The intransigence of this group of people kills the country's national unity. Extremism prompts extremists to lead a secluded life. It encourages them to force their own beliefs on others through coercion and violence.

According to this definition of extremism and extremists, I would say that I view Muslims who have no consideration for non-Muslims, who fail to understand the essence of the teachings of God and his prophet, and who fail to work to safeguard national interests and to show respect for non-Muslim citizens as a group of extremists exhibiting unfairness, creating disunity, and causing sedition. Likewise, I view the fraternal Copts who stand against the unmistakable desire of the overwhelming majority of Egyptians to apply Islamic shari'a as people who espouse hardline and arbitrary views. By their attitude, they appear as people who are saying: You have to choose either Islam or national unity. They make the issue look as if we were before two irreconcilable objectives.

I can understand the Copts when they demand reassurances regarding the nature of the social contract that would emerge under the canopy of an Islamic state. They have the right to demand such reassurances, inasmuch as enemies as well as (the ignorant among us) have tarnished the image of Islamic jurisprudence. Yes, the Copts have the right to ask questions and to discuss issues with us. Consequently, if moderate Islamists manage to prove (in words and deeds) that full citizenship rights will be granted to all—and this is an achievable objective, God willing—moderate Copts become dutybound to enthusiastically take part in our struggle for progress and reform.

The Copts' acceptance of an Islamic perspective would be a return to the national nobility of descent, a manifestation of a sense of belonging to Egypt, and a rejection of subservience to the West and its materialistic civilization, declining code of ethics, and legislation. Such a return to this nobility of descent would strengthen Egypt's historic ties with Arab and Islamic states. It is impossible for Egypt to make headway or protect itself without a special and strong relationship with these states.

In the name of Egypt's pan-Arab security, in the name of economic development and social justice, in the name of virtue and cherished values, we ask the Copts to accept the path that their nation has chosen for progress. We ask them to lend deaf ears to those who tell them otherwise.

Still, some Copts believe that even if our call for their participation in this national effort were sincere, their situation in the projected Islamic state would be worse than the situation they experienced in the wake of the 1919 and 1952 revolutions. I would like to assure them on behalf of the SLP that this is not true. I am aware that they were done injustice in the past. We must work to prevent a repetition of this injustice.

In this regard, I would like to say that in 1983 I wrote a study on democracy, noting: "The official political propaganda machine of the July revolution has not caused sectarian sensitivities. At best, the propaganda machine of this revolution has forgotten that there is a problem. At worst, many Copts concluded that a deliberate mistake was made with the aim of preventing them from playing any role in building the new state. I can find excuses for them. It suffices here to recall the names of the people who occupied higher positions in the executive and administrative echelons of the state and also in parliamentary bodies throughout the revolution years. Reaction to this stand took the form of emigration by hundreds of thousands of people. Moreover, the state machinery of the revolution failed to solve the problem. This reaction from the Copts has weakened the unity of the nation in its confrontation with external enemies. Moreover, it was also bound to undermine the pillars of democracy and democratic practice. No genuine democratic practice can belittle the influence and participation of a major component of the nation."

I published this critical view of the July revolution in the year 1983. In this study, I added: "The demand now is for affirming the Islamic content of the national plan for renaissance. However, I am well aware of the possibe opposition and animosity that might emerge from the Copts. Their argument would be that Nasir's Arab plan has shown that the formation of a unity-oriented central government with extensive economic and social power and authority has led to a Muslim monopoly of authority to exclude Copts from occupying any leading positions in society's institutions. This happened despite the fact that Islamic connotations in Nasirist political ideology were not strong. How would then the situation look if commitment to Islam becomes more effective and open? This is how the Copts would argue. The Coptic public is nowadays more wary of the pursuit of an Arab policy than it used to be. It is more worried about the expansion of the state's role in managing the economy than it used to be. In contrast, this public is less wary of the U.S role in opening the Egyptian economy to a subservient private sector than it used to be. Consequently, the Coptic public is less wary of the U.S. political role than it used to be."

After presenting this analysis, I said then that it was our duty to address the mistakes of the past so that we could have the Copts back in their natural place within the national ranks. I said then and I reiterate now that the correct and comprehensive Islamic solution is the guaranteed path for unparalleled justice. It is also the guaranteed path for wider participation by all citizens in building their homeland; this runs counter to the lies and allegations propagated by some parties.

Mauritania

Opposition Movement Pledges Armed Struggle

AB0305202190 Paris AFP in French 1223 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Dakar, 3 May (AFP)—The African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (FLAM, a black Mauritanian opposition movement), in a communique handed to the press today in Dakar, asserted that "the armed struggle against the Mauritanian regime is an irreversible option." This position, the communique added, is dictated "by the bellicose attitude of the Military Committee for National Salvation," (the ruling body in Mauritania). The armed struggle "is being carried out by Mauritanians without the help of any foreigner," the communique continued.

The FLAM, which asserts that its armed branch has carried out several night raids against military positions on Mauritanian territory, stressed in its communique that its objective is "to create in the urban centers of Mauritania a situation that will lead to the fall of the current regime and lead to the establishment of a federal state and democracy."

Another black Mauritanian movement which was recently created, the United Front for Armed Resistance in Mauritania, also said that it favored armed struggle against the Mauritanian regime, which it has accused of deporting several thousands of black Mauritanians to Senegal during the conflict that broke out between the two countries more than a year ago.

Minister Says Senegal Blocking Solution

AB0305113690 Paris AFP in French 1708 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 1 May (AFP)—The May Day celebrations in Nouakchott were marked by a violent anti-Senegalese diatribe by Mr. Mohamed Ould Hiemer, minister of civil service, labor, youth, and sports, observers noted. A single, big ceremony was organized at the Independence Square in the Mauritanian capital to mark international Labor Day and Mauritanian workers, on this occasion, expressed their support for "those expelled from Senegal" and made an appeal for an improvement in their living conditions.

In his address, the minister put this day "in the historical context of the events of the end of April 1989, when odious massacres and acts of vandalism were carried out against innocent victims from within a dignified, hard-working community attached to the virtues of tolerance which was living in Senegal," he declared, referring to the Senegalese-Mauritanian incidents that led, last year, to the repatriation of citizens of the two countries to their respective countries and caused the death of over 100 persons on both sides of the border. Mr. Ould Heimer said that the Senegalese Government is responsible "for blocking every solution to this conflict." He accused the Senegalese of regrouping "all those who can be considered as Mauritanians to use them against their country, sending armed Senegalese to plunder and steal in Mauritania, and sequestering tens of thousands of Mauritanians on Senegalese territory."

He appealed to all workers to "unmask and neutralize all internal and external traitors," and warned that the 250,000 Mauritanians whose property was looted "can really arm themselves to recover their looted property." Lastly, the Mauritanian minister saluted the action of the government which has transformed what could have been a disaster in other lands (the return of Mauritanians expelled from Senegal) into a "victory."

On his part, the secretary general of the Mauritanian Workers Union called for national unity, which is the guarantee of the harmonious economic and social development of Mauritania.

Observers recalled that a mediation effort carried out by the OAU, supported by many neighboring, African, and Western countries has not yet made it possible to reconcile the two "brother enemies", whose diplomatic relations were broken in August 1989. Observers also noted that although the conflict between the two countries is no longer referred to in public by the Senegalese authorities, the Mauritanian Government continues to blame Senegal for all the wrongs, thus seeming to reject any

appeasement, as is born out by the minister's address today or by the recent speeches of the Mauritanian head of state on the occasion of both the beginning of Ramadan (one month ago), and at its end a few days ago.

Morocco

Finance Ministry Announces Currency Devaluation

LD0305142190 Rabat MAP in English 1234 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Rabat, (MAP/Pool/UMA)—Morocco has devaluated the Dirham by 9.25 percent, with the measure taking effect May 2 at zero hour, a communique of the Ministry of Finance announced Wednesday. The communique explained the move as being "part of the government's medium-term economic and financial program" and "the role that the exchange rate policy could play in developing exports, tourism and remittances by Moroccan workers abroad and in spurring economic growth."

In answer to concerns expressed by domestic economic operators, "the composition of the Dirham's quoting basket was modified," the communique said. It said this was done by "raising the share of major European currencies entering in the ECU [European Currency Unit] while taking into account the importance of these currencies in our foreign transactions."

John Kelley Confers With Union Secretary

LD0305142990 Rabat MAP in English 1310 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Rabat, May 3 (MAP)—Visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East [title as received] John Kelly conferred here this Thursday morning with Moroccan Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of UMA [Arab Maghreb Union] Affairs Driss Alaoui M'daghri on phases covered for the edification of the UMA.

M'daghri informed Kelly and his accompanying party about these phases pointing out that the union is being edified on firm bases to make of (?it) a homogeneous regional grouping. He surveyed the progress made since the Marrakech summit of February 1989 that incepted the UMA and highlighted the key role slayed by King Hassan II as the first UMA chairman. He also stressed the positive results of the UMA second summit held in Tunisia last January as well as the important work accomplished by the various Maghreban sectorial ministerial commissions.

Kelly said after the meeting that the United States is following with great interest the efforts being made for the UMA edification. Kelly arrived here Wednesday, last leg of a Maghreban tour that led him to Tunisia and Algeria.

Meets Azzedine Laraki, Departs

LD0305212290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Mr. John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, left Morocco today, thus ending his tour of the Maghreb.

The U.S. official was received this morning by Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki. After reviewing developments in the international and regional arena in light of the latest changes in East Europe, the Middle East region, and the Maghreb, the prime minister expressed Morocco's concern regarding the stance of the U.S. Congress regarding the situation of occupied Jerusalem which provoked the emotions of the Arab and Muslim worlds.

Mr. John Kelly announced that the U.S. Congress decision is not binding as far as the U.S. Government is concerned. It has always objected to settling the situation of Jerusalem from one side only. He also stressed the U.S. stance regarding peace efforts in the Middle East on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Mr. Kelly expressed the wish of the United States to follow up the develoment of the economic situation in Morocco. In this connection, the prime minister, Dr. Azzedine Laraki, briefed the U.S. official on the broad lines of efforts deployed by his majesty's government on simple administrative measures to encourage national and foreign investments, while achieving prosperity in a social balance.

This audience was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Rabat Michael Ussery, members of the U.S. delegation, close assistants to the prime minister, and the director of Arab and Islamic affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Sudan

Rebel Reportage on Coup Attempt, Executions

Radio SPLA Commentary

EA0405143490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The leader of the National Islamic Front [NIF] junta, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, to strengthen his policy of butchery and repression, has announced in a press conference broadcast by Radio Omdurman yesterday that the problem of the system of rule in the Sudan is resolved. He did not elaborate how this problem has been resolved, or who were the political forces involved in the resolution of a system that the Sudan should take.

'Umar al-Bashir, in his press conference, said the Sudan will never return to a secular system of rule. By this, the

self-imposed dictator 'Umar meant that the NIF junta will force its fascist policy on the Sudanese people even against the popular will of the Sudanese people.

On the extrajudicial execution of the 28 Army officers allegedly for their part in a coup d'etat, 'Umar al-Bashir shamelessly wanted to divert away the world opinion and that of the Sudanese people, by saying that the trials of the murdered officers were done according to the Armed Forces Act and after a thorough investigation, and that the trials and executions were made public. He further said that all the officers executed participated in the coup.

How could a thorough investigation be done, since these officers were executed within only 24 hours of the alleged coup and less than 10 hours of the mock trial by the junta's kangaroo courts? [Words indistinct] some of these matters and the longest trial, lasting only four minutes. This can clearly explain that these officers were murdered under a politically stage-managed conspiracy by the junta.

If it was true that the thorough investigations have been carried out on the alleged crime committed by the 28 officers, why did the junta not publish the proceedings of the trial, court findings, and the verdict for the Sudanese people to know before executing their [word indistinct]? Why did the junta hurriedly execute these officers, if it were not a plot by the NIF to eliminate its opponents?

Brigadier 'Umar al-Bashir explained in his press conference the motive behind the alleged coup as follows: One, that the coup aimed at dissolving the RCC [Revolution Command Council] to be replaced with a new one; Two, elimination of the members of the military council, together with leaders of the traditional parties—Sadiq al-Mahdi, [Ummah Party leader], al-Turabi [NIF party leader] and Muhammad 'Uthman at Mirghani [Democratic Unionist party, DUP, leader]; Three, that the coup also aimed at the abolition of shari'a laws and a return to the constitution of 1974; Four, that the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Sudanese People's Liberation Army] was to participate in the new government; Five, that they, the junta, have some proof that there was a connection between the first coup attempt in March this year and this latest one.

To analyze some of the points that 'Umar al-Bashir thought are sufficient reasons to convince the Sudanese public that there was in fact a coup attempt and to defend their brutal murder of the 28 officers, all these reasons that al-Bashir claimed were the objectives of the alleged coup attempt boiled down to nothing.

The self-imposed brigadier said that he had some proof that there was a connection between the first and the second coup attempt. When we look back at who were accused by the junta in the so-called first coup attempt, it is clear that the junta accused the Ummah Party for the first coup, hence arrested the following members of the Ummah Party, allegedly for their part in the coup: 'Abd al-Rasul al-Nur, former governor of Kurdufan; Mahdi Babu Nimr, former Chief of Staff; and retired First Lieutenant 'Abd al-Rahman Sadiq al-Mahdi [the Ummah Party leader's son]. These people and others are still under arrest.

In the junta's alleged second coup—(?Matir) Muhammad 'Uthman Karrar, a former governor of Eastern Region, is a DUP follower. If, therefore, these two coup attempts are connected in which members of Ummah Party have been arrested and one of DUP summarily executed, how then could the Ummah and DUP members in the army stage a coup to eliminate the leaders of the various political parties with which they sympathize and support?

Al-Bashir's explanation of the alleged coup is contradictory, and aims at tyring to divide the National Democratic Forum. This shallow-minded and foolish defense of the atrocities made by the NIF junta reveals the junta's helpnessness at the face of their isolation by the political forces and the Sudanese public. Contradictorily, in his first statement about the alleged coup, 'Umar al-Bashir said the coup makers wanted to bring back the sectarian parties. Now he tells the Sudanese people and the world public opinion that the coup makers wanted to kill the sectarian parties. Which is which, we ask al-Bashir.

The junta is trying desperately to find a support for their murderous and evil regime. By alleging that the coup makers wanted to murder the members of the RCC and leaders of the sectarian political parties, 'Umar al-Bashir thinks he could help win over these sectarian parties to support his regime. Let 'Umar al-Bashir be reminded that the blood-stained hands of the NIF junta will receive the very same fate. Al-Bashir thinks the Sudanese public are foolish and cannot conceive their atrocious policy.

The junta must be reminded that those who kill by the sword will die of the sword. The struggle of the toiling masses of the Sudanese people and the armed struggle waged by the SPLM/SPLA will continue until these monsters of the NIF junta are pushed off the state seat, and sent to where they belong.

Khartoum Reports Arrests

EA0305175590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] An unspecified large number of people were arrested in Khartoum two days ago during anti-government demonstration by the families of the martyred officers murdered recently by the junta. Reports say those arrested were immediately tried by an emergency court and sentenced to three months imprisonment. The sentences have so far not been implemented.

Tunisia

President To Mediate Between U.S., Libya

LD0405092490 Kuwait KUNA in English 0852 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 4 (KUNA)—A leading local Arabic daily Friday quoted unidentified Tunisian sources as saying that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali will mediate in normalising Libyan-American relations.

Daily AL-QABAS noted that discussions with U.S. President George Bush, during the upcoming visit to Washington by Ben Ali, will mainly focus on the main outlines of the U.S. policies towards the Arab Maghreb states and deteriorated relations between Washington and Tripoli.

The daily also quoted unidentified Maghreb sources in Tunis as indicating that talks during the latest visit to Tunisia by member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council Major Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi had centered on Ben Ali's expected role in normalising the strained relations of Libya and United States.

Electoral Amendment Passed; Elections Postponed

LD0305183890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpts] The House of Representatives today ratified the draft basic law concerning the amendment of the electoral code.

This law is part of the process to modify laws concerning the organization of political life in Tunisia. The importance of the law stems from the fact that it introduces proportional representation into municipal elections. [passage omitted]

The draft law included partial amendments to some chapters of the electoral code in order to make it compatible with the proportional representation system. It also included the postponement of the municipal elections, set for this May, to the coming June as an emergency measure to enable all sides to prepare themselves for the elections. In deciding this postponement it was decided to make it close to the normal date as an expression of respect for the sanctity of the elections, and in order to keep the municipal councils, which will be elected, to their normal term of office, which is five years. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Discusses Amendment

LD0305193490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the conclusion of the fourth parliamentary day organized by the Democratic Constitutional Rally [DCR], Mr. Hamed Karoui, the prime minister and deputy leader of the rally, discussed the amendment to the article on the municipal elections in the electoral code. He stressed that it is designed to give political parties and bodies the opportunity to enter the municipal councils and secure stability and effectiveness in municipal action. [passage omitted]

The prime minister pointed out that the essential difference between the DCR and the extremist religious movement stems from their different conception of the nature of society, especially regarding the day-to-day problems of the citizens, which remain in our opinion a subject for further examination.

He pointed out that the state is the only body that protects religion, and that the commitment to the Islamic Arab character of Tunisia is a common bond among Tunisians, provided that that commitment remains a progressive element and not a regressive one. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Meetings, Efforts Toward Unification Continue

Future Makeup Detailed

AB0305151590 Paris AFP in English 1114 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Aden, May 3 (AFP)—North and South Yemen will proclaim their unification on May 27, six months ahead of a deadline set by leaders of the two neighboring countries, well informed sources said here Thursday.

The president of a united Yemen will be North Yemen's current head of state, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, while the post of vice president will go the leader of the ruling Socialist Party in South Yemen, 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

The prime minister will be the current South Yemeni president, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

The official unification proclamation will be made in Sanaa, the future capital of the unified Republic of Yemen, following several "important measures" to consolidate the process, sources added. [passage omitted]

By terms of the current plan, the North Yemeni and South Yemeni parliaments will hold separate sessions May 24 to endorse a common resolution for the unification of Yemen.

Two days after the parliamentary vote, a 301-seat provisional unified parliament will be announced, consisting of 159 MPs from the North, 111 from the South and 31 independents representing "nationalist forces."

Both parliaments have also agreed to scrap plans to hold a national referendum after their endorsement of the resolution on unification.

The unified parliament will appoint a five-seat provisional presidential council, with three members representing North Yemen and two from South Yemen.

The presidential council will then be charged with forming a 33-member interim cabinet that would govern for a two-and-a-half year transition period.

Prime Ministers Chair Meeting

EA0305150990 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Brothers Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and PDRY prime minister, and 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the YAR General Congress, chaired a meeting this afternoon, during which they reviewed a number of unification matters concerning the executive measures to merge bodies and corporations.

They also reviewed the decisions other working groups have made, formation of which was completed at yesterday's meeting. That meeting dealt with the special arrangements to merge other corporations, services, and economic organizations.

In a separate development, the specialized working teams set up yesterday during the meeting chaired by the prime ministers continued their efforts to finalize the rest of the work (?set out) at that meeting

Qatar

Reportage on Turkish Trade Minister's Visit

Air Transport Accord Signed

JN0305164490 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Doha, May 3 (GNA)—The State of Qatar and Turkey today signed an agreement to organise air transport between them.

The agreement was signed for Qatar by the Minister of Communications and Transport 'Abdallah Bin-Salih al-Mana' and for Turkey by Sukru Yurur, minister of commerce and industry.

The agreement stipulates that national carriers of the two countries fly three flights a week between Qatar and Turkey. Prior to signing the agreement al-Mana' discussed with Yurur ties of cooperation between Qatar and Turkey and means of strengthening them.

Comments on Talks, Departs

JN0305165290 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Doha April [as received] 03 (GNA)—The Turkish minister of industry and commerce, Mr. Sukru Yuru left here today at the end of a three-day visit to Qatar.

He was seen off by Qatari minister of industry and public works, Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali al-Subay'i, the Turkish ambassador in Doha and senior officials at the Ministry of Industry and Public Works.

In a pre-departure statement the minister said the visit was successful and would help promote cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

He noted that his talks with Qatari officials covered ways of widening the scope of cooperation in the sectors of economy, trade and industry and joint investment.

The minister said that a Qatari delegation will visit Turkey next month to discuss enhancing bilateral cooperation as part of the exchange of visits by Qatari and Turkish officials.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister

LD0305165790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1609 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, at al-Salam Palace today received Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and deputy prime minister, who conveyed to King Fahd a written message from his brother Saddam Husayn of Iraq.

Mr. Ibrahim al-'Anqari, King Fahd's private adviser, attended. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

PDRY's Al-Dali Arrives, Comments on Unity

JN0305190390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a visit of several days to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

Al-Dali told the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY on arrival that he carries a message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from PDRY President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

He explained he is visiting the UAE to discuss means of promoting current and future relations and cooperation. He said the PDRY currently is the southern part of Yemen, but in the future, cooperation will be between the UAE and unified Yemen.

Asked about reports indicating the political leadership of Yemen intends to declare unity of the two parts of Yemen before the end of this month, instead of 30 November, al-Dali said the unity declaration is "imminent." He added he cannot specify a date for it, because the political leadership of Yemen is to decide that.

He noted his country has voiced support for holding an Arab summit to confront the challenges posed to the Arab nation and the Palestine question in particular.

He hoped the summit will be held as soon as possible and all Arab states will attend without exception to draw up an Arab plan to confront the current challenges.

In its second meeting on 5 May, the joint committee between the UAE and the PDRY will meet, led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah and Dr. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali to discuss means to promote bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The committee's first meeting was in Aden in 1985.

Husayn, 'Aziz Address News Conference 3 May

Al-Asad Invited to Summit

JN0305122090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 3 May (WAKH)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has announced that several Iraqi envoys soon will leave for Arab capitals to deliver President Saddam Husayn's invitation to Arab kings and presidents to attend the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled in Baghdad this month.

At a news conference here this morning, he said one envoy will leave for Damascus to hand President Hafiz al-Asad an invitation to the summit.

Replying to questions by journalists, 'Aziz said if the Syrian president decides to come to Baghdad, he will be received with all the protocol arrangements provided to every Arab leader at the summit.

Journalists took this to mean President Saddam Husayn will lead those who receive President Hafiz al-Asad if he arrives at Baghdad airport.

'Aziz said Iraq has unilaterally decided to halt media campaigns against Syria as part of preliminary arrangements for the summit. He described media concern about reports on efforts toward Iraq-Syria reconciliation as "fabricated media concern." [passage omitted]

The Iraqi foreign minister denied Iraqi-Syrian relations are a separate item on the Arab summit agenda, as some news reports suggest.

He said there are other Arab differences, but they are not on the agenda, and they had never been on the agendas of earlier summits. [passage omitted]

'Aziz on Parity With Israel

JN0305114590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed Iraq has achieved unprecedented parity [mu'adalah fi al-tawazun] with the Israeli enemy since the 2 April announcement by President Saddam Husayn that Iraq possesses binary chemical weapons.

At a press conference which many local, Arab, and foreign media correspondents attended here today, he said the Arab masses saw President Saddam Husayn declare that the old equation between the Arabs on one side and Israel on the other has ended, and that a new one has emerged.

He said the Arabs now possess the power to deter Israel.

He explained that the Arab masses and the enlightened leaders realized this fact immediately when President Saddam Husayn made the announcement. The reaction by those masses and leaders, therefore, was not ordinary; it entailed a need to adhere to this historic achievement, to defend it and its symbol—which is President Saddam Husayn and Iraq—and to formulate a new Arab position proceeding from the new balance of power.

Mr. 'Aziz described the current threats to Iraq and the Arab nation as very grave and reminiscent of the establishment of the Israeli entity in Palestine and the Israeli act of aggression in 1967. It can be said the Arab fate in this decade will be determined, whether positively or negatively, by the Arab nation's position on these threats and the measures that it will take, 'Aziz said.

He said this is the essential issue that preoccupies us and all sincere Arabs who are dealing seriously with the events.

He stressed the call for clearing the Arab atmosphere indeed is a sincere one, and that the endeavor to solve Arab differences is a virtuous one.

He went on to say: But we should not divert attention from the basic issue and preoccupy ourselves with secondary issues.

He said President Saddam Husayn's envoys will leave for the Arab countries next week to invite Arab leaders to attend the Arab summit.

On the date of the summit, 'Aziz said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat proposed it be held before the Soviet-U.S summit, scheduled for 30 May.

He added that negotiations are under way to fix a suitable date for the Arab summit before the aforementioned date.

Regarding the Soviet Union's position on the imperialist-Zionist campaign, Tariq 'Aziz said Iraq wished the Soviet Union would make clear and frank statements on this campaign.

He said Iraq did not interpret the absence of any Soviet comment or the absence of the Soviet Union's explicit support for Iraq as a sign of support for the U.S. or British stands.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed the Arab nation is now passing through a unique stage that cannot be compared to any previous one.

He said the Arab nation is facing serious dangers and difficult circumstances, especially on the international level. He recalled that at the recent Amman Arab Cooperation Council summit, President Saddam Husayn emphasized the gravity of these circumstances.

In this respect, Tariq 'Aziz called for the formulation of a comprehensive Arab strategy in light of the military and economic potential the Arab nation now possesses, which enables it to play a role on the international level.

Tariq 'Aziz said this potential has placed the Arab nation on the threshold of a new stage that will enable it to become a force to be reckoned with in this world, and

that will enable it to fulfill the aspirations and dreams the Arabs have had since the era of Arab renaissance.

The deputy prime minister affirmed Iraq is working to have the forthcoming extraordinary Arab summit come out with resolutions that can be implemented, and that the dialogue during this summit should be clear and frank. This is what President Saddam Husayn had stated when he met with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi yesterday.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that during this meeting, President Saddam Husayn said the convictions the Arab leaders will reach through this serious and frank dialogue are more important than the resolutions they will adopt.

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz further stated Iraq might suggest the summit be held without setting a date for its conclusion, and that this issue will be left up to the Arab leaders to decide.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister declared President Saddam Husayn will address an invitation to Ilyas al- Hirawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon, to attend the Arab summit. He said the way the invitation will be delivered depends on the security situation in Lebanon.

Tariq 'Aziz disclosed that Iraq has addressed a message to the Iranian leadership, which he described as a message of peace. 'Aziz, however, did not disclose the letter's content nor the date when it was addressed.

Moreover, 'Aziz strongly denounced the campaign carried out by the parties of the hostage game in Lebanon, adding that Iraq condemns kidnapping operations and cannot find any moral or political justification for this act. He also explained the hostages were used by the kidnappers and by some parties to which these hostages belong as tools of political blackmail and for concluding suspicious, dirty political and nonpolitical deals.

Tariq 'Aziz described this kidnapping as an exciting play aiming to distract attention from the ugly crimes committed by the Zionist authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Tariq 'Aziz criticized the policy of flooding the oil market, which some of the oil-producing countries have adopted. He said those who manipulate oil prices by irresponsible methods to make selfish, trivial gains are making a big mistake. He added it is our duty to admonish them and warn them of the consequences such behavior entails.

Answering a question on the suspension of media campaigns between Iraq and Syria, Tariq 'Aziz said: Since we have officially informed the Arab League that we welcome holding the summit in Baghdad, Iraq has become the hosting state. We respect our commitments toward hospitality.

He added: Since Syria is an Arab state and the president of the Syrian Arab Republic is invited to attend the summit scheduled to be held in Baghdad along with the other Arab leaders, then the hospitality protocol necessitates that similar arrangements, such as the ones I have mentioned, should be implemented in this regard.

He said: President Saddam Husayn has ordered the suspension of the so-called media campaigns against the Syrian Government as one of the measures to pave the way for the summit. This is a unilateral decision, and it is not based on a bilateral agreement, as I said.

Ramadan, 'Arafat Address Palestinian Students

JN0305160690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—The activities of the 10th congress of the General Federation of Palestinian Students began here today under the slogan "Through our national cohesion and the escalation of armed struggle and the intifadah, we protect our unity and our people's achievements, and establish the state of Palestine under the PLO." The congress will last five days.

President Saddam Husayn deputized Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, to attend the congress, held at the hall of conferences.

Ramadan addressed the congress, which Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, and 'Abd-al-Majid al-Rafi'i, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member and secretary of the Ba'th Party Regional Command in Lebanon, attended. At the outset of his speech, Ramadan conveyed to the participants in the congress President Saddam Husayn's greetings and wishes of success in their meetings.

He said: Your congress is being held at a very crucial stage of the contemporary Arab struggle, where a campaign of threats and challenges is being launched against pan-Arab security. This campaign is led by the anti-Arab-imperialist-Zionist alliance against our Arab nation. The stage of detente between the two big Eastern and Western pacts and the deep changes in the USSR and Eastern Europe have reflected negatively on the Arab nation's march and the Palestinian people's rights. The most important of these negative reflections is the Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, arranged by Western and U.S. pressure on the pretext of human rights.

He added: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its annexes present the issue of human rights as an indivisible whole away from selectivity. From this true interpretation, we cannot accept the imperialist-Zionist interpretation of human rights in this biased and unjust manner. This is because guaranteeing any people's rights must not take place at the expense of other people's rights based on the equality of all peoples and citizens without discrimination or superiority. Those who are crying for the freedom and rights of Soviet Jews would have done better had they made room for them in their

homelands and provided them with facilities and necessary opportunities to absorb them, and not donated other people's homelands and territories, which are the Palestinian homeland and the occupied Arab territories. They do not have any right to misinterpret this issue, because it is a firm and legitimate right of the Palestinian people.

Ramadan added: The Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories is a new catastrophe that must be confronted by a resolute and comprehensive Arab stand, because the conspiracy is not targeting only Palestine, but the entire Arab homeland. This is because the demographic change in occupied Palestine entails profound changes in the political geography of the Arab region based on the declared objective of the Tel Aviv rulers and extremist settlers of establishing "Greater Israel" in accordance with a new expansionist policy that is much more serious than the past slogan of "From the Nile to the Euphrates".

He pointed out there are threats to swallow up fraternal Jordan, in the same say as southern Lebanon and other occupied Arab territories, to absorb hundreds of thousands of new immigrants and to evict occupied Palestine of its sons through deportation, expulsion, and the confiscation of their lands and properties within the framework of an evil multi-faceted plan.

He said the resolutions of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives considering holy Jerusalem as a united and eternal capital for the Zionist entity, and the Jewish Knesset resolution considering Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights as outside any future negotiations, are all aimed at tightening the grip on the glorious Palestinian intifadah, isolating and exhausting it, and consequently quelling it, as the fascist Zionists imagine.

Ramadan addressed the fabricated campaign being launched by the colonialist circles against Iraq. He said: The hysteria that afflicted the Tel Aviv-Washington-London axis after the address made by President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, on 1 April is well understood by us, as that address constituted a qualitative move in the Arab reality and has ended forever a bitter chapter of frustration and despair that afflicted the Arab masses as a result of past setbacks. The speech also gave rise to a wide-scale pan-Arab revival in the entire Arab homeland from the Atlantic Ocean to the shores of the Arabian Gulf. It is an unprecedented state of Arab joyful pride based on the trustworthiness and the high reliability of Iraq and its brave knight. This trustworthiness and high reliability have been tested and baptized with pure blood, precious sacrifices, and unlimited preparedness for sacrifice for the sake of the Arab nation's glory and sovereignty. The disparity that characterized the Arab-Zionist conflict during the past decades has been changed by the Iraqi strike force, which has achieved a balance between the binary chemical and the Zionist nuclear threat.

He added the imperialist-Zionist clamor has been motivated by the fact the Zionist-imperialist base in the Middle East no longer controls the region, as it used to do when it was able to strike anywhere it liked without being deterred or responded to properly. This was the case when it launched its criminal raid on the peaceful Tammuz reactor on 7 June 1981, when Iraq was preoccupied with confronting the Iranian aggression from the east. Israel also attacked Tunisia twice, invaded Lebanon in 1978 and 1982, and launched other treacherous aggressions against the Arab nation. The enemies have realized that the al-Husayn, al-'Abbas, and Tammuz-1 missiles, and all the scientific achievements of the Iraqi military industrialization can strike at the heart of Israel if it dares harm our pan-Arab and national security. Leader President Saddam Husayn's pledge is the voice of manliness, a public challenge, and a vivid expression of all the pan-Arab emotions flowing abundantly, which will remove the remains of defeatism and indecision propagated by the fifth column within the framework of its counter psychological warfare.

Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed that as a militant historic duty, the Palestinian and Arab youths are required to use all their potential to perpetuate the revolutionary Arab awareness, zeal, and action in cooperation and cohesion with all militant groups in our glorious Arab nation to bravely and firmly confront the conspiracy of the imperialist-Zionist-British alliance aimed at curbing the vigorous pan-Arab revival launched by struggler Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. The youths of Palestine and the Arab nation must also support the brave Palestinian intifadah and its vigor with all means to enable it not only to hold fast, but also to escalate and triumph over the evil racist, Nazi, Zionist persecution machine.

Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, delivered a speech in which he said it is not a coincidence to meet on the land of the two al-Qadisiyahs—the land of victorious leader Saddam Husayn—to sing together the song of fighting and sacrifice along with the song of victory achieved by the heroic Iraqi Army, thus bringing together al-Faw and Gaza and Baghdad and Jerusalem.

He added the Arab nation currently is passing through a serious and difficult turning point and confronting huge challenges posed by Zionism, imperialism, and the enemies of the Arab nation. He said this requires a genuine pan-Arab stand against this dirty plot against the Arab nation and its pan-Arab struggle.

Yasir 'Arafat affirmed stones will become more effective after President Saddam Husayn has turned them into al-'Abid and al-Husayn missiles, thus affirming to the world Zionism and imperialism cannot push the Arab nation back.

The Palestinian president said President Saddam Husayn's address is the firm and pan-Arab response to the Zionists' insults and aggressions against the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Further on Turkish Minister of State's Visit

Meets With Minister Salih

JN0305165490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister and acting finance minister, today met with Isin Celebi, Turkish minister of state and head of the Turkish side to the Iraqi-Turkish joint committee.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed means of promoting bilateral relations and economic, trade, and technical cooperation.

The agriculture and irrigation minister and the Turkish ambassador to Iraq attended the meeting.

Meets Agriculture Minister

JN0305192690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1712 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud today received Isin Celebi, Turkish minister of state and head of the Turkish side to the Iraqi-Turkish joint comittee.

During the meeting, which the under secretary of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry attended, the two sides discussed prospects of cooperation in the fields of irrigation and land reclamation, and means of promoting them.

Economic Cooperation Minutes Signed With Poland

JN0305165790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1502 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—Iraq and Poland today signed joint minutes on economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and means of promoting it.

Trade Minister and Acting Finance Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih signed the minutes for the Iraqi side, and Minister of Foreign Economic Cooperation Marcin Swiecicki signed for the Polish side.

The minutes provide for promoting trade cooperation in the interest of the two friendly countries.

Oil Minister Says OPEC Decision 'Positive'

JN0305180290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpt] Geneva, 3 May (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi has described the OPEC extraordinary meeting agreement to cut total production as positive.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Geneva, he said the cut in production, which Iraq has called for and stressed during the meetings, will inevitably lead to improving oil prices. He added the member states which exceeded the set quotas have stressed their commitment to immediatelty cut production to the agreed quotas. [passage omitted]

Political Maneuvering for Leadership Continues

Rabin on Vying for Labor Helm

TA0305152290 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 May 90

[Interview with Alignment Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin by Ilana Dayan—live]

[Excerpts] [Dayan] Good evening, Mr. Rabin.

[Rabin] Good evening to you and to our listeners.

[Dayan] I heard you were quoted as saying the following during the meeting this morning: I anticipate a need for reshuffling personnel at the top levels of the Labor Party soon. My question, against the backdrop of these remarks, is simple: Are you running for the party leadership?

[Rabin] First of all, it is only natural, in light of developments, such as the dissolution of the national unity government and the failure of those who advocated setting up a narrow-based government that would combine the left with the ultraorthodox parties, that a debate should be held on the matter for the sake of drawing practical conclusions to sum up what happened, but even more importantly, to draw lessons and apply them now and in the future. The personal business is merely a side issue deriving from the substantive discussion.

[Dayan] Do you think it is a mandatory by-product, though?

[Rabin] At the proper stage, yes.

[Dayan] At that point, when the right time comes, when the issue is brought for discussion before the party's Central Committee, will you run against Shim'on Peres?

[Rabin] I presume that if, in view of the two options the Labor Party currently has, and since the mandate to form the government is now in Mr. Shamir's hands, and because I believe Mr. Shamir and the Likud will make a concerted effort and give top priority to establishing a narrow-based, rightist-leaning government, if we reach the opposition, we will have to prepare for elections. It is the opposition's job to present an alternative to a government whose views it opposes, and to make the people decide in elections. I presume that when election time comes, a process will be held to select the candidate who will be asked to lead the party in the next elections.

[Dayan] Allow me to try to rephrase your comments in a more pithy and somewhat blunter fashion: Are you saying Peres has failed, and that it is therefore necessary to replace him with someone else at the appropriate time?

[Rabin] There is no doubt in my mind the line taken by the Labor Party under Peres seems, right now, to have failed. The attempt to establish a narrow-based government collapsed not only due to a technical hitch, but I believe also because of a conceptual error.

[Passage omitted] [Dayan] So now you will take action toward forming a national unity government with Shamir, but without rotation, without a positive response to Baker, and even in defiance of Mr. Peres?

[Rabin] Things are definitely not like this. I believe what the party bureau decided, namely that the formation of a narrow-based rightist government is bad for Israel in every respect—from the security point of view, as well as from the economic and international standpoint—is true. I therefore think everything should be done within the bounds of the law to prevent this. One way of doing it is in the negative way, which is to say by making sure the 59-member bloc we had does not join such a government. [as heard] Yet a constructive response also is in order.

I believe the Likud today, under Shamir's baton, will make an effort to form a narrow-based government. But in order to do so, it must include ultraorthodox and religious parties, some of which, I trust, comprehend the gravity of the implications of having a narrow-based rightist government. I am therefore ready to go ahead, but definitely not by crawling or capitulating on the principle matters. The primary of these matters is continuing the peace process according to the Cabinet's initiative, meaning leading to the meeting between the Palestinian and the Israeli delegations in Cairo.

[Dayan] Even without giving Baker a positive answer now?

[Rabin] No. What I am actually saying is Baker should be given a positive answer. I will, under no circumstances, accept a situation in which the peace process is not pursued. At the same time, lessons should be learned from what evolved in the outgoing national unity government. It therefore is necessary to evaluate what was included in the coalition agreement and yet was not fulfilled: Namely, first, that if we reached a crisis situation between the Likud and the Alignment, we were to proceed to elections and no single party would try to set up a narrow-based government; and second, tie situations or a freeze in the Inner Cabinet would be prevented by bringing issues before the Cabinet plenum. My experience has shown that on two occasions—the withdrawal from Lebanon and the cancellation of the Lavi project—when things were brought before the entire Cabinet plenum, the discussion was to the point, partisan calculations were swept aside, and the religious parties sided with us.

[Dayan] Summing up the situation—and I can sense your assessment is that Shamir is about to form a narrow-based government, and that the religious parties, which are currently paying lip service to a national unity government, will ultimately join it—if the Labor Party goes to the opposition, will the sabre rattling begin?

[Rabin] If we go to the opposition, it will not be the end of the world. The real catastrophe, I think, will be in the form of the reality that will prevail in the country in various spheres. The Labor Party, as the opposition, should strive to bring about early elections by legal measures. It must establish democratic procedures in the

party itself—primaries [previous word in English], it must have a leadership both on the international level and internally and make sure this leadership is be elected by all the party members. I believe at that juncture the party members will elect the person who they believe can better lead the party to success in the elections.

[Dayan] In one word, yes or no, would you say that man is Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Rabin] He is definitely one of those people.

[Dayan] Thank you very much, Mr. Rabin.

MK Gur Remains in Alignment

TA0305192890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpt] Knesset Member [MK] Efrayim Gur is staying in the Alignment. He informed Alignment Chairman Shim'on Peres of his decision this evening. In his announcement, Gur stated: Following serious deliberations over one of the most complex issues I have had to tackle in my entire life, namely whether or not to secede from the party, I have decided to stay in the Alignment, a party facing trying times right now. I have waived all personal considerations, among other reasons, due to my concern that the establishment of a narrow-based government might have a detrimental effect on aliyah. This was MK Gur's announcement. [passage omitted]

Peres To 'Fight' for Unity

TA0405075390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres says he has not laid hold of the horns of the altar [Biblical verse], in his words, and he is prepared to confront any alternative candidate when a party convention is held. He rejected the contention his move to form a government had failed, saying Yitzhaq Rabin had agreed to disband the partnership with the Likud after it became apparent Prime Minister Shamir had halted the preparations for an encounter with Palestinians in Cairo.

He mentioned Rabin's so-called brilliant maneuver in 1977, when Rabin fired the NRP [National Religious Party] ministers in his cabinet, thereby causing the collapse of the Labor government.

Peres stressed the Alignment has managed to renew the partnership with the religious parties. Agudat Yisra'el supports the Labor Party's bloc, while SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] has not yet determined its final stance.

The Labor Party chairman pointed out he is not impressed by any ratings, and that he will continue his loyal and steadfast fight for party unity. Shim'on Peres was interviewed on our morning program.

SHAS 'Opposition' To Likud

TA0405093790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 May 90 p A1

[By Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpt] Strong opposition to supporting a narrow-based Likud government was voiced yesterday in SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. Last night the Likud completed its first round of coalition contacts, without meeting with SHAS as had been planned. SHAS informed Likud leaders it will be ready for such a meeting only on Monday.

Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef told his close aides that under no circumstances will he permit his movement to support the establishment of an extremist right-wing government, and that he sees a unity government as the only possibility. The Likud is deeply concerned over this new stand. If this tendency continues and the NRP [National Religious Party] also stands firmly by its demand for a unity government, the chances for a unity government will increase. Contacts on formulating a joint position for the three religious parties are apparently under way. Agudat Yisra'el has also said it will wait for developments in SHAS before it decides on its stand. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 4 May in a report by correspondent Shlomo Raz adds "SHAS elements have said the next government's guidelines will not satisfy the party unless they include a commitment to promote the peace process in accordance with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's stand."]

Pazner Says Mubarak Criticism of Shamir Unjustified

TA0305185890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpts] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak again has leveled harsh criticism at Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, accusing him of responsibility for the Middle East deadlock. Mubarak was speaking at a news conference in Damascus as he wound up his visit. [passage omitted]

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, reacted to President Mubarak's remarks this evening, saying his criticism of the prime minister is unjustified. After all, the peace initiative was conceived by Yitzhaq Shamir, and only last night he reiterated that the new government also will be committed to the peace initiative.

Messages on Saddam Relayed to Iraq Via Egypt

TA0105045390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Israel has transferred messages to Iraq via Egyptian diplomats, against the backdrop of President Saddam Husayn's threat. Our Washington correspondent points out that Foreign Ministry Director General

Re'uven Merhav, who is visiting Washington, mentioned the messages, but noted that Iraq has not responded to them.

Navy Gunfire at King Husayn's Yacht Denied

TA0405084790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 May 90 p A1

["Special" report by U.S. correspondent Yo'av Qarni]

[Text] Washington—A Navy patrol boat last Saturday fired at King Husayn's yacht in the Gulf of Elat, while the king was standing on the deck for all to see. Jordan protested sharply to Israel and to the United States, and the issue was dealt with at the highest possible levels in Washington. According to Middle East sources, President Bush and Secretary of State Baker reacted to the incident with "anger." The sources said Israel avoided apologizing and promised only that there would be no recurrence.

The Prime Minister's Office and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman are denying the incident took place.

According to the sources, who are outside the Washington area, the royal yacht was sailing in international waters and was escorted by a Jordanian Navy vessel. "No one could have been mistaken about the king being aboard the yacht," the sources said. "He stood on the deck and could be seen easily."

When the Navy vessel began to fire, the king took control of the yacht, which retraced its path and sailed toward Saudi coastal waters. The Israeli vessel pursued it in what the sources described in English as tailgating [last word in English]. Only when the yacht entered Saudi waters did the Navy vessel stop firing.

Throughout the chase and the shooting, the king's bodyguards and the escort vessel failed to return fire. The sources described the Israeli shots "as having been fired from a weapon installed on the deck, not just from a pistol."

The sources could offer no explanation for the incident other than "the arrogance of an Israeli officer." They do not believe it was an attempt to assassinate the king or that the shots were intended to harm anybody specific.

The incident follows growing Jordanian fears in recent months of an Israeli intention to implement the "Jordan is the Palestinian state" option. The king has been very active since the start of the year in coordinating Arab world efforts to prevent Soviet Jews from settling in the territories. The Jordanian press and members of parliament in Amman have recently expressed unprecedented bitterness about the expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank to Jordan and link it to far-reaching Israeli plans to change Middle East geography.

Yugoslav Envoy Invites Netanyahu, Arens To Visit

TA0405051990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has confirmed that Yugoslavia sent a special envoy to Jerusalem for talks on normalizing relations. The Yugoslav official, Milan Zupan, met deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and senior ministry officials. He invited Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Arens to visit Yugoslavia, though no dates were set. Yugoslavia, like Bulgaria, broke off relations with Israel in 1967, at the time of the Six-Day War.

Senior Likud Elements Plan 14 New Settlements

TA0105095990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 May 90 p A1

[By Nadav Shragay and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The right-wing parties—Tehiya, Moledet, Tzomet, and the NRP [National Religious Party]—together with the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, recently presented government elements with a working document the council prepared during the negotiations for the 1988 government coalition. They want to implement it in stages beginning now. In an attempt to appease the right-wing parties in the framework of the current coalition talks, senior elements in the Likud have agreed as a first step to begin establishing all the settlements already agreed by previous governments that do not require a new government resolution. Sources in the council have said the energetic activities of Mikha'el Deqel, the prime minister's adviser on settlement affairs, should be viewed in this context.

The following are the 14 settlements to be established immediately: Reyhan He in northern Samaria is planned to be a Betar [Herut youth movement] communal moshav (to hold 250 housing units ultimately). The intention is to bring the core settlers to the site within a few days. It is one of the eight settlements the Likud and the Alignment agreed on in 1988.

Ramat Qidron, also called Mitzpe Yehuda, near Jerusalem, will reportedly be settled within a few days. It too is one of the eight agreed by the Likud and the Alignment in 1988. Some 385 dunams have already been allocated for this settlement.

Brukhim in Samaria was approved as early as 19 May 1983. It has at its disposal some 2,000 dunams of state-owned land. Members of the Hamizrahi movement settlement division, affiliated with the NRP, are behind this settlement.

Revava in Samaria, west of Tapuah, on the Rosh Ha'ayin-Tapuah road, was approved on 10 June 1984, and has 600 dunams at its disposal.

Ya'arit in Samaria, approved on 14 May 1984, has 1,900 dunams.

Ilanit, a neighborhood of Alfe Menashe, was approved in April 1982.

Elqana Daleth, also called 'Amihud, was approved in April 1982. It ran into some legal problems, and an attempt is now being made to resolve the fate of several hundred dunams.

Tirtza, a settlement planned near Nabulus, has previously been approved by the government. It has 1,500 dunams of state-owned land at its disposal. In the past, Yitzhaq Rabin strictly opposed its establishment so close to a such a densely populated center as Nabulus.

'Ofarim Beth in the Binyamin District was approved in 1984, Te'enim in Samaria in 1983, Sla'im in the Binyamin District in July 1984, Ginat in Samaria in September 1983, 'Irit in Samaria in April 1984, and Negohot on the Hebron Hills was approved in September 1982.

In addition to these 14 settlements, the council document includes 12 more sites which currently are Nahal outposts or are planned to become such sites, or will become civilian settlements. The document also includes a list of roads and an additional 5,000 housing units, a figure that includes expanding currently existing settlements.

Yesterday Mikha'el Deqel confirmed that several resolutions to establish settlements exist which have not yet been carried out. "They will apparently be implemented in the future," he said. At the same time, Deqel said he cannot confirm there is an agreement to implement such resolutions at this time. [passage omitted]

Trade Deficit Improvement Continues

TA0305085790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 May 90 p 8

[By Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] Imports of goods and services exceeded exports by only $3.7 billion during 1989, down from $5.2b. in 1988, and $5.7b in 1987, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

In 1989 imports of goods and services totalled $20.4b., close to the 1988 figure. Weapons and other defence goods made up $1.2b. of total imports last year, $900 million less than the amount imported the previous year.

Exports of goods and services last year totalled $16.7b., up from $15.3b. the previous year. This increase includes a 9 per cent hike in income from foreign tourism, due to both an increase in prices and an increase in the number of tourists who visited Israel.

Transfer payments totalled $4.9b. last year, up by 7 per cent from the previous year.

IDF Reports Increased Suicide Rate

TA0305192290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpt] Last year 37 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] standing army personnel and reservists committed suicide. In the last four years, a rise has been noted in the suicide rate in the IDF, although Army sources claim there have been worse years. Mental health staffers recently have warned against excessive and obsessive talk about the phenomenon. The IDF, for its part, has inaugurated a special hot line service intended to provide emergency help in times of distress. [passage omitted]

Husayn, Jerusalem Patriarch Confer in Amman

King Affirms Support

JN0205162290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Amman, 2 May (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon His Beatitude Theodhoros I, Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem, who congratulated his majesty the king on 'Id al-Fitr and expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for his majesty's stand regarding the crisis they were subjected to due to the Israeli aggression on the Christian holy shrines.

His Beatitude Patriarch Theodhoros affirmed to His Majesty King Husayn that their steadfastness in the face of this aggression and their struggle to prevent the occupation authorities from attaining their goals are inspired by his majesty's stand by and support for his Christian brothers.

His beatitude praised the solidarity stand which Muslims and Christians have taken. He pointed out that for the past 1,400 years, we have been living as one peaceful and secure family until Jerusalem fell under occupation. Only then were our and Muslim shrines subjected to all forms of aggression.

His beatitude said the current issue is not merely that of the convent's ownership. It is much greater than that. It is a political matter, and therefore, we shall remain united to protect our country and liberate our shrines.

His Majesty King Husayn responded by welcoming his beatitude and the bishops of Jerusalem and Amman and ranking patriarchate officials accompanying him. He affirmed to them they are in their Jordanian home and among their family.

His majesty said: We were shocked at the Israeli behavior. I wish to affirm to you that our concern over the Christian shrines is a matter of principle, and we place the holiness of our religious shrines above every political consideration.

His majesty praised the courage, patience, steadfastness, and brave resistence by His Beatitude Patriarch Theodhoros and the churchmen to the occupation. He affirmed our joint adherence to Caliph 'Umar's covenant which Israel and the enemies of the nation are attempting to render meaningless. We have confronted in the past and will always confront such attempts.

The meeting was attended by his majesty's political adviser.

'Angry' Over Jerusalem Issue

JN0305204690 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpts] The Greek Orthodox Patriarch, Theodoros I, will conclude a week-long visit to Amman tomorrow and return to Arab Jerusalem. Our reporter Rana Najm interviewed his majesty the king after his meeting with the patriarch. [passage omitted]

[Begin Husayn recording] I am more than shocked and very, very angry really at what I see happen in Jerusalem and what one saw developing to this point of making this holiest of cities to all followers of the three monotheistic religions a political game—a game here and a game in other parts of the world. I think that this very tragic and very, very dangerous incident, happening when congressmen in the United States and senators are falling over each other to call for Jerusalem to be part of the political game regarding Israel that is meant to, in their view, respect these holy places, is something that is incomprehensible to me and very, very regretful. I believe that the situation is very dangerous and I hope that what has happened may shake this world and its conscience into realizing the importance of Jerusalem to all of us and that it should be kept as it has been in the past, safe from hands that have no respect for what is lofty and what is dear and what is in the hearts of all believers. [end recording]

'Official' on Subsidies, Arab Financial Aid

JN0305071090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3-4 May 90 p 1

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—There is no government decision to abolish or change the status of the Ministry of Supply or to lift government subsidies on basic food commodities, an official source said Wednesday.

"The Ministry of Supply has a very important role to play and there is no decision whatsoever to abolish it or change its status," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. By the same token, the official said, "there is no decision to reduce or lift subsidies of basic commodities, and he pointed out that the amount for subsidies to support real prices has already been allocated in the budget.

Recent reports had suggested that the government was under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to lift its food subsidies with a view to reducing the Kingdom's 1990 budget deficit of JD [Jordanian dinars] 199 million. The total amount of budget allocation for subsidies for fiscal year 1990 is JD 60 million, and economists expect it to go up if the government were to keep a tight ceiling on prices of basic foodstuffs despite expected rises in international prices.

Other sources said part of the subsidies could be lifted before the end of the year. The sources could not specify which areas of the present spread of subsidies could be affected by the expected move.

The official said Jordan had not received any substantial amount of Arab financial assistance during the year, but expressed confidence that the aid, projected at $360 million in the 1990 budget, would be forthcoming.

"We will, I repeat, we will receive Arab financial assistance," he reaffirmed. "We are going to receive some before July," he said without disclosing the amount expected.

"Signs are good after His Majesty the King's recent visit to Saudi Arabia," he added, denying unconfirmed reports that Jordan had already received an amount ranging between $50 million to $100 million from Riyadh.

The official also dismissed speculation that the Jordanian dinar could be further devalued. "We can categorically deny that any such moves are planned," he said. "The dinar has stabilised at the present (exchange) rate, and there is no need" for any devaluation, he stressed.

The official confirmed that there could be a limited cabinet change after noting that Planning Minister 'Awni al-Masri had submitted his resignation. "There could be some limited changes in the wake of the resignation, but I do not expect any major reshuffle at all," he said.

According to the official, the government is studying applications for licensing new magazines and other publications other than daily newspapers, which could be licensed only after the proposed national charter is completed and ratified. However, he said, "political and economy-oriented publications could be licensed only after further study." The official also disclosed that an amended press and publications law had been drafted and is currently under study by the minister of information, but he declined to make any specific comments on the highlights of the proposed legislation.

Amal, Hizballah Clash in Beirut Suburb

NC0305191890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Violent clashes erupted between Amal Movement and Hizballah in the areas of al-Ghubayrah, Hajjaj, and al-Musharrafiyah in Beirut's Southern Suburb at 1930 this evening. So far, seven people have been wounded and several fires broke out in al-Shiyah as a result of the clashes.

A Hizballah source said that the fringes of the Mahallat Mu'awwad and the area of al-Ghubayrah have been coming under 120-mm and 82-mm mortar fire since 1945. The source said that the Amal Movement is reinforcing some of its military positions in the Suburb.

Hizballah Official Urges Spain To Free Detainees

NC0305183990 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] One of Lebanon's Hizballah leaders yesterday warned the Spanish Government in connection with the fate of seven Lebanese Muslims detained in Spain.

The Spanish news agency cited this official, who identified himself to the agency as Abu-Ahmad, as asserting that the Spanish Government must avoid provoking the Muslims of Lebanon's Hizballah.

Abu-Ahmad noted that the continued detention of these strugglers may provoke the Muslims. He said the Lebanese Muslims who were detained in Spain had no intention of carrying out operations in Spanish territory; rather, their aim was to attack U.S., French, and Zionist interests in Europe.

Hizballah Statement on 3 May Suburb Fighting

NC0405075390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] A Hizballah media source has issued the following statement on the tension in the Southern Suburb yesterday: Yesterday morning the groups belonging to Birri's Amal Movement began to create tensions by setting up checkpoints in the B'ir Hasan area and near the 'Akka Hospital. They also arrested a citizen and placed him in the trunk of a BMW. At 1100 Birri's gangs extended the tension to al-Hajjaj Street in al-Shiyah by deploying 107-mm rockets and aiming them at the Shirri building and its vicinity. They attempted to storm the Hizballah headquarters in al-Hajjaj but were repulsed. Calm was restored to the area after intensive mediation efforts.

Birri's groups, however, resumed provocations in the al-Musharrafiyah, al-Ghubayrah, and the Mar Mikha'il Church areas. They criminally fired 120-mm mortar shells at the approaches to the Mu'awwad Street and the thickly populated al-Ghubarah area.

The Hizballah media source continued: We condemn these attacks and see in them a determination by these groups to keep the sedition alive. As part of our legitimate duty, we call on honest and sincere people to act promptly and to exert pressure on these groups to make them refrain from harming our people. We also urge these people to condemn these acts publicly.

Another Hizballah source also accused Amal members of storming the Qabrikha township and arresting a number of citizens, including Husayn Fahs, 75, and 'Ali Hijazi. They also kidnapped Faraj Wahbah Fawwaz, killed him in public, and arrested some of his friends when they tried to stop them from doing that. The detainees are from the Zaydan, Sarhan, Khamis, Hadi, and Habshah families.

Syrian Trucks Reportedly Unload Weapons for 'Awn

NC0305163290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Syrian military trucks were seen unloading arms and ammunition to trucks belonging to 'Awn gunmen in the town of 'Anjar on Sunday. The words, Strong Lebanon, were written on 'Awn's trucks.

Israeli, Resistance Activities in South Reported

NC0305173890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpts] This morning, Israeli occupation forces found and detonated an explosive device resistance fighters had planted on the al-Tiri-Haddathah road. The forces then raked the area with a number of 82-mm mortar shells. Some of the shells hit the edge of the town of Haddathah, while an enemy force advanced in the direction of the town. No further details are available about this aggression.

Meanhile, resistance fighters detonated an explosive device as an Agent Lahd's militia patrol was passing in Jazzin area. The militia radio admitted that the explosion put a vehicle out of commission and wounded a militiaman. The radio said that an agent force then searched the area and found and dismantled antivehicle mines. [passage omitted]

Four operations were carried out against Israeli occupation forces on the Kawkaba combat line during the past week. According to security information received from the area, four vehicles were damaged, two soldiers were killed, and 10 others were wounded in these operations. The agent Voice of the South radio claimed that only two Israelis were wounded in the operations. [passage omitted]

Further on Mubarak-Al-Asad Negotiations

Mubarak Meets Press

NC0305123090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 3 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has declared that he and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad do not disagree that a peaceful solution for the Middle East problem is the ideal one, provided it is just and comprehensive. He added that the Syrian president is one of the Arab leaders who are fully convinced that the peaceful solution is the best one.

Speaking to reporters in Damascus this morning, the president asserted that the resumption of Egyptian-Syrian relations is significant and vital for resolving the Palestinian problem. In his statement, President Mubarak said that normalcy is being restored between Cairo and Damascus for the sake of cooperation in various areas, both bilaterally and on the Palestinian issue.

The president declared that his talks in Damascus touched on Arab solidarity, which he described as an urgent matter in light of the current international situation. He said: We call for Arab summits and stress that all Arab leaders must try their utmost to resolve any differences among themselves.

The president responded to a question by a MENA correspondent on the impact of his talks with President al-Asad on the Middle East peace process. He said: We discussed the Middle East issue with President al-Asad yesterday. President al-Asad does not disagree with us that the peaceful solution is the optimal one, that we should try our utmost, and that the best thing is to take the peaceful course, provided that the solution is a just and comprehensive one. The president added: Golan is an occupied part of Syrian territory and Jordan is a party to the Palestinian issue; therefore all our brothers, whether here in Syria or in Jordan, and the Palestinians as well, are all parties to the solution of the Palestinian issue. President al-Asad is one of the leaders who are fully convinced that the peaceful solution is the best one.

The president responded to a question by an Egyptian television correspondent on the results of his visit to Syria. He said: On this visit, we met with President Hafiz al-Asad. I met with President al-Asad earlier, at the Islamic Conference Organization meeting in Kuwait, at the Arab summit in Morocco, and later in Tubruq. I believe that the resumption of relations between Egypt and Syria is very important and vital for the Palestinian issue.

The president added: Syria fought the October War with us to liberate the land and resolve that issue. Syria joins us in efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution. Moreover, Egyptian-Syrian relations are historic and long-lasting. They go back a long way, before and after the 24 July revolution, since the time of Presidents 'Abd-al-Nasir and al-Sadat. During a period we all know, following President al-Sadat's initiative, these relations were lukewarm. We have resumed relations, however, and normalcy is gradually returning so that we can cooperate in various fields, both bilaterally and in resolving the Palestinian problem.

President Mubarak said: I discussed all the details with President al-Asad, and bilateral relations are now taking their proper course. There are discussions to create a joint committee embracing both countries, similar to those created with other Arab countries, to enhance cooperation in various political and economic areas. We exchange views and coordinate our stands.

The president added: We talked about Arab solidarity, which has become a pressing subject in view of the current world situation. The current state of Arab discord must not continue. Conditions in the Arab world cannot be improved, and nobody will listen to the demands of the Arab nation as long as each country works in isolation from the others. We call for Arab summit meetings and stress that all Arab leaders must try their utmost to resolve differences among themselves.

Responding to a question on progress in the Middle East peace process, Mubarak remarked that Shamir is opposed to all peace plans and initiatives. Mubarak added: He rejected my 10-point initiative, which was very logical, and he also rejected the plan proposed by U.S Secretary of State James Baker because he wants to implement his own plan which is vague and obscure.

The president added that Shamir's recent remarks were very discouraging for efforts to bring about peace. I have repeatedly asked Shamir, in vain, to make the maximum possible effort to establish peace in the region. He added, however, I am not pessimistic over peace prospects because I am optimistic by nature.

The president responded to a question on Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. He said: We are not against immigration, but we are against the immigration of Soviet Jews into the occupied territories. The problem should be solved through negotiations instead of by inviting more immigrants to settle there.

In this context, the president added: Under no circumstances will we interfere in the Soviet Union's internal affairs. We are, however, joining efforts with our friends in the world and are holding contacts with Israel, the United States, and the Soviet Union in order to settle immigrants anywhere in Israel except the occupied territories.

Asked whether his talks with President al-Asad had covered the issue of western hostages, the president said: We did indeed discuss the issue. However, I will not elaborate on the subject because this may complicate things. The president asserted that President al-Asad is eager to help resolve this issue peacefully and safely. He remarked that President al-Asad had informed him that he would do his utmost to this end.

President Mubarak said that President Hafiz al-Asad would welcome a visit by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the

State of Palestine, to Damascus. Mubarak stated: 'Arafat is a symbol for the Palestinians. Yesterday I talked with President Hafiz al-Asad on this subject and he is ready to welcome 'Arafat to the Syrian capital at any time. I think 'Arafat will be quite happy to come to Syria and sit with President al-Asad and discuss all matters.

In reply to a question about an Arab summit, President Mubarak said: We in Egypt are not against holding a summit meeting, but we would like proper preparations to be made before such a meeting takes place, so that it may produce good results that match the present circumstances.

Mubarak added: The Arab foreign ministers should meet and discuss all the issues, as is the standard procedure. The OAU foreign ministers meet to discuss the agenda in detail before the convocation of OAU summits. A small number of issues may be left for the presidents to decide, but everything should almost be decided or at least well prepared before the summit.

President Mubarak was asked whether Syria would take part in the peace process if progress were made in this respect. He answered that President al-Asad will take part in the peace process when he feels that the process is really moving closer to the achievement of a total peace. The major issue is the Palestinian one and, if the Palestinians are involved in an active way, President al-Asad will not hesitate to participate.

Mubarak said: We do not differ with Syria on the matter of peace. Peace is a goal for both Syria and Egypt. Syria wants to resolve the problem peacefully and has no intention of waging a war to resolve it. I had the impression in my discussions with President al-Asad that Syria is doing the best it can and this makes me very satisfied.

Syria and Egypt fought together in the October war. Now we have to work together to resolve the problem by peaceful means, Mubarak said.

President Mubarak stated that, in his talks with President al-Asad yesterday, they discussed in full detail all matters concerning bilateral ties and issues of common concern.

President Mubarak said that Shamir has not given the peace process a chance to move forward in the right direction. He added: Last July, I undertook a very good 10-point initiative in the hope that it would form a basis for negotiations. Neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians were satisfied with all the points in that initiative. My goal when I prepared those points was to help further the peace process and I left some points for negotiation. The Palestinians remained silent regarding that initiative and the Israelis gave a negative answer.

President Mubarak went on to say: Afterward, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker put forward his five-point plan, which the Israelis also refused, while the Palestinians said that some of these points needed further clarification. At the time, we were hoping to be able to sit down and negotiate everything. The solution of the problem cannot be advanced unless the parties to it sit together, and it is very difficult to reach a good solution to the problem through mediation and intermediaries.

Mubarak stressed that the whole situation is stagnant now and that there is no motion at all.

He said: We are waiting for the formation of an Israeli government, since there is no government in Israel at present to undertake negotiations.

He said he feels that Yitzhaq Shamir does not want to solve the problem at all. He remarked that this means that everything may become complicated unless the United States exerts a great effort to help and to persuade the parties involved in the problem to sit and negotiate. He said that this is the only way, otherwise the problem will become more complex, and we will end up in a confused situation.

President Mubarak explained: We do not demand U.S. pressure on Israel, but we do ask that the Americans persuade the Israelis. Washington has good ties with the Israelis, who at the same time are intimate friends of America. We must capitalize on this factor so that the peace in the region may be a just one.

Mubarak was asked if he believes that the current changes in Eastern Europe may be in Israel's favor. He replied: I am of this opinion, as Eastern Europe is currently giving increasing aid and support for Israel, contrary to the situation which prevailed before. I am not against any country having good relations with Israel, but I urge just backing and support for a solution of the Midddle East issue.

Replying to a question about reports of Egyptian mediation between Syria and Iraq and of preparations underway for a meeting in Cairo between the two countries' foreign ministers, he said: So far there is no specific plan in this respect. However, we support any resolution to the problem between the two fraternal countries.

He added: I had a lengthy discussion with President al-Asad on this subject. Several points still remain, however, which require an effort not only by Egypt but also by all friends in the region in order to narrow the gap between Syria and Iraq.

President Mubarak answered another question on Syria's participation in the forthcoming Arab summit conference. He said: It has been decided to hold such a conference, the agenda of which should be well prepared. We hope to persuade President al-Asad and to find some way so that the conference may be held in Baghdad as proposed.

Al-Asad Meets Egyptian Reporters

NC0305154290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad met with Egyptian reporters and said that he and President Husni Mubarak covered many issues in their talks. President al-Asad said that he and President Mubarak agreed to strengthen

bilateral ties to the level these ties had reached in the past and to consolidate cooperation in all fields.

As for Arab cooperation, President al-Asad said that he and President Mubarak are eager to maintain the unity of Arab ranks and discard squabbles among the Arabs, for this is necessary in order for the Arab people to cope with the current developments and deal with the changes taking place in the world today.

The Syrian president said that President Mubarak is eager to resolve Syrian-Iraqi differences, but this will take time and effort.

President al-Asad added that his visit to the Soviet Union was satisfactory and that the USSR reiterated its support to Syria, to the Arab countries, and to the Arab liberation movements and renewed its condemnation of Israel and its nuclear weapons. The USSR also stressed the importance of restoring Arab territories to their rightful owners and of protecting the legitimate Palestinian rights.

The Syrian president said that the Arabs should endeavor to prevent the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories, adding that the USSR will take steps to limit the effect of Soviet Jewish immigration on Arab rights.

The Syrian president said that he and President Mubarak discussed his coming visit to Egypt, which may take place at any time. President al-Asad praised cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

The Syrian president underlined the importance of implementing al-Ta'if agreement for resolving the Lebanese crisis. He added that Syria supports the constitutional legitimacy in Lebanon.

Al-Asad Vows Boycott of Baghdad Summit

JN0305143290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] In Damascus, REUTER has cited President Hafiz al-Asad as telling the Egyptian reporters who were covering President Mubarak's visit to Damascus that Syria will not participate in the Arab summit if it is held in Baghdad and if its agenda continues to be confined to the two declared topics. These are the Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied territories and the current hostile campaign against Iraq.

Al-Asad Decorates Mubarak, Others

JN0305124290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak completed their talks in two closed meetings and another expanded session attended by members of the Syrian and Egyptian sides at the Presidential Palace today. During these meetings the two sides completed discussion of topics broached at the previous meetings. These topics relate to bilateral relations, coordination and cooperation between Syria and Egypt, the Arab situation, the dangers posed to the Arab nation under the current circumstances, and the international changes and their impact on the Arab nation.

The talks were characterized by a fraternal atmosphere and a joint desire to march with firm steps toward joint action in all fields in a manner that will serve the Arab nation's pan-Arab issues and the two fraternal countries' joint interests.

At a ceremony in the Presidential Palace, President Hafiz al-Asad decorated President Muhammad Husni Mubarak with the Umayyah Medal of the First Order. He also decorated the following members of the Egyptian delegation with the First Class Order of Merit: Dr. Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Muhammad Mahir Abazah, minister of energy and electricity; Muhammad Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; Fu'ad 'Abd-al-Latif Sultan, minister of aviation and tourism; Zakariya Hasan 'Azmi, head of the Egyptian Presidential Office; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and head of the Presidential Office for political affairs.

Attending the ceremony were Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Information Minister Muhammad Salman, Electricity Minister Muhammad Kamil al-Baba, and Tourism Minister 'Adnan Quli. Members of the Egyptian delegation accompanying President Muhammad Husni Mubarak also attended the ceremony.

Mubarak Departs 3 May

JN0305131290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Damascus—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Damascus at 1400 today after a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad. The president led the delegation which saw President Mubarak off at Damascus International Airport. He was also seen off by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'—who headed the escort mission—Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish, and Egyptian Ambassador in Damascus Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi.

President Mubarak shook hands with those who came to bid him farewell: the prime minister's deputies, the ministers, the governors of Damascus and Damascus Rural Area, and the staff of the Egyptian Embassy in Damascus. The two presidents then went to the honorary dais. After the national anthems of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic were played, the two presidents inspected the guard of honor and a 21-gun salute was fired in honor of the visiting president.

Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived at the airport in an official motorcade from the Presidential Palace where the final talks were held.

Agreement on Joint Committee Signed

JN0305161190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] An agreement was signed today at the Presidential Palace to establish a higher joint committee between the two governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt. The agreement was signed for the Syrian side by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and for the Egyptian side by 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Defense Minister Meets Norwegian Counterpart

JN0105200490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Damascus—General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, today received Norwegian Defense Minister Per Ditlev-Simonsen and his delegation. The meeting was attended by the ambassador of Norway in Damascus and Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah, head of the joint armistice commission.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations, the conditions of the Norwegian unit serving with the UN Disengagement Observer Force in the Golan and the region, and the situation in the Middle East.

Commentary Urges Economic Measures Against U.S.

JN2904182290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers down the path of revolution and liberation: Arab public opinion continues to express outrage at the decision by America's congressmen and senators acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of the criminal Zionists. There have been ongoing assertions that the hostile, unjust, and base U.S. conduct is illegal, that it is an act of defiance and meddling in the affairs of Arabs, Muslims, and Christians, and that it is a new conspiracy that requires firm reaction and confrontation.

The substantial and reasonable question is: How can this conduct be countered? Protests are not sufficient. U.S. congressmen and senators adopted their resolution without even considering the feelings of the Christian church. In fact, the resolution was passed when the confrontation between the Christian church and the Zionists, who occupied Christian property in occupied Jerusalem under protection of the Zionist authorities, was at its peak. The congressmen and senators, thus, did not even take the feelings of American Christians into account when they adopted their resolution, which underscores their blind subordination to the Zionists.

The practical measures that Arabs and Muslims need to take to counter this hostile U.S. act must therefore be defined in terms of Arab economic, commercial, and investment policies and patterns of relations with others. In other words, Arabs must reconsider these policies in a manner that reduces Arab investment in the United States, cuts down Arab imports from the United States, and lessens Arab dependence on U.S. commodities. These and other practical measures would make U.S. capitalists realize that, through their blind bias in favor of the Zionists, they harm themselves. Consequently, they will be forced to reconsider their policy.

The U.S. capitalists have been under the impression that Israel is the guardian of their financial interests in the Arab homeland. This impression must be shattered in a practical way by decreasing Arab economic deals with the United States. This is the only way for Arabs to change U.S. policies.

Columnist Says U.S. Policy Formulated in Israel

JN0305154590 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 29 Apr 90 p 2

["With the Events" column by 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Rahim: "Arab Regret Will Not Stop the Conspiracy"]

[Text] The current U.S. approach does not indicate that some mistake had been behind the senators' recognition of the right of the sons of Zion to declare united Jerusalem a capital of the Zionist entity. The recent endorsement by the members of the House of Representatives affirmed that Washington's first and foremost decision on the region is a Jewish decision made to further Zionist aims.

As for the doors of "peace", they are completely barred because they do not serve the new Jewish-U.S. approach under the present U.S. Administration which inherited the Reagan administration's absolute support for anything that serves Israel, its interests, and expansionist policy. This support is, furthermore, operative to the extent that it has removed the Arab factor from the list of U.S. calculations.

The "moderation" Washington has requested to begin negotiations that will eventually lead to peace means, according to U.S. political understanding, Arab surrender to Jewish plans. The evidence of this is that Washington has advocated the following:

1. Washington is exerting efforts in the world arena to make available international support for Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine, and to restore diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity which have been severed due to Israel's rejection of UN resolutions and withdrawal from the occupied territories.

2. It is supporting Israel militarily and extending to it NATO's most modern weapons and equipment, modern rockets, modern early-warning systems, planes, and modern military technology.

3. It is endeavoring to exterminate the miraculous intifadah by devising conspiracies, cutting off its support, and keeping it in the dark regarding the developments in the region to liquidate it and open the doors to the Palestinian youths to emigrate from occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to the United States, Canada and other Arab countries. This is designed to ultimately remove Palestinians from the arena of struggle and fill it with new Jewish emigrants instead.

4. Washington is trying to create confusion in the region by proposing peaceful projects or misdirecting peace plans with an aim to divide the Arab ranks, prevent their unity, give the opportunity to discuss settlements which in reality will not see the light of day, and try to impose, at the same time, the fait accompli of the occupation. Jerusalem has become a united capital of the Zionists. The world public opinion's preoccupation with the Baker plan, the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, the dissolution of the Zionist coalition and the Likud-Labor conflict over its re-formation, has prevented it from taking notice of the victims of the Zionists' crimes in occupied Palestine.

Day by day, this U.S. approach is becoming clearer and clearer. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have openly disregarded U.S. relations with the Arab and Islamic homeland. Furthermore, the House and the Senate disregarded Washington's own interests in this part of the world because U.S. interests are safe, and the policy of suppression and killing of nationalists is continuing under the pretext of fighting and deterring terrorism.

Whoever follows Washington's recent stands and its State Department's official statements discovers beyond doubt that the Jewish decision is made in Tel Aviv, but is executed by U.S. tools and international pressure. If we assume, for instance, that Washington wants to oust Shamir, this assumption would be wrong because the opposite is actually taking place. Washington has, through the decisions of the House and the Senate, adopted Shamir's stand on the Arab-Zionist conflict which champions the establishment of "Greater Israel" with united Jerusalem as its capital. Even if we assume, furthermore, that Washington opposes the decisions of the House and the Senate, Washington would be forced, at some future time, to carry them out. We do not believe that the U.S. defense secretary, who is supplying weapons to the Zionists so that Shamir's dream and that of Zionism can come true, would oppose these decisions.

In these critical days, we warn against the U.S. stand which continues to contribute directly to the attempts to eliminate the phenomenal intifadah after U.S. diplomatic means fail to exterminate it. We are confident, however, that any U.S. success toward this end will carry the U.S.-Zionist fire to Arab streets and cities located throughout Greater Israel, and then, the Arabs' regret over what happened will be to no avail.

Economy Minister on Private Sector Role

JN3004191190 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 29 Apr 90 p 15

[Excerpts] Damascus—AL-ITTIHAD—The Syrian economy has recently shown positive performance with a one billion Syrian pounds rise in the gross national product [GNP] and a marked increase in exports. The major development was the turnaround from a deficit in the trade balance to a surplus of about $927 million at the end of the past year.

The following dialogue between Syrian Economy Minister Muhammad al-'Imadi and AL-ITTIHAD explains the main reasons for this development and the broad lines of the government policy of encouraging the private sector and attracting further investments by Syrian expatriates and Arab brothers during the coming phase.

The minister explains that in the past, Syria's economy mainly depended on agriculture. The structure of the national economy then expanded with industry, agriculture, and trade joining forces and greatly contributing to the GNP. [passage omitted]

Asked about the budget and the trade surplus, the minister said: The government policy of encouraging exports and rationalizing imports bore fruit between 1985 and 1989 and led to a decline in the trade deficit from $2,257.5 billion [figure as published] in 1985 to $884 million in 1987. A surplus of about $927 million was achieved at the end of the past year.

Export figures showed an increase during 1987 and 1988 and rose markedly in 1989. This can be attributed to three factors:

First, an increase in oil exports.
Second, an increase in the export of industrial and agricultural products and commodities.
Third, an increase in exports to the countries of the payment agreement [not further specified]; the private sector had the lion's share in these exports.

We can say that exports are playing the major role in shaping Syria's trade balance.

As a result of the import rationalization policy and the facilitation of export for all Syrian establishments through the provision of administrative facilities and exemptions, the public sector exports rose from $833 million in 1987 to $876.5 million in 1988 and to $1,215 million in 1989. [passage omitted]

The Syrian economy minister stressed the government's eagerness to activate the private sector in the coming phase and remove the obstacles that have prevented it from performing its planned role. This is reflected by the policy which encourages private sector projects through providing the necessary facilities for importing equipment, making exemptions from taxes and fees, and allowing Arabs and expatriates to take their profits and capital outside the country under certain conditions and with the permission of

the state. This has increased the gross fixed capital formation in the private sector from 259 million Syrian pounds in 1970 to 6,089 million Syrian pounds in 1986. In addition, there is interest in the joint sector, which comprises many joint companies between Syria and some Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Nominations Completed; Candidate Lists Prepared

JN2704174690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah has announced that the period for deciding on applications for nominations to the People's Assembly ended today. He added that the nomination committees in the governorates have completed their tasks in accordance with the General Election Law.

In a statement today, the interior minister noted that the final notifications have been sent to candidates, and that each governorate has begun to print namelists of the candidates, arranged alphabetically, in order to announce the names to the public.

Dr. Harbah explained that election campaign instructions state that, after receiving the final notification, the candidate is entitled to publish circulars and statements announcing his program and everything about his campaign, provided that he signs these statements and gives three copies to the governor.

The minister said that the law guarantees that the candidates will be able to contact voters to inform them of their abilities and proficiency using every possible means in accordance with laws and regulations in force. He added that the candidate can conduct his campaign until 48 hours before the elections. [passage omitted]

Lists Prepared; Campaigns Begin

JN2904103490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus, 29 Apr (SANA)—Candidates in the People's Assembly elections began their election campaigns after receiving final notifications and after lists of the candidates in the governorates had been prepared.

The central committees in the governorates' election constituencies are continuing their work to provide more election centers by dividing each election constituency into a number of centers with a hypothetical average of one thousand voters each.

According to Interior Ministry instructions, the voter must vote for candidates in the constituency in which he votes, and not for candidates in the constituency in whose records his name originally appears, except for al-Qunaytirah Governorate. [sentence as received]

It should be noted that election measures are being meticulously attended to with the utmost care and in accord with current laws.

Al-Zu'bi Addresses Rally on Democracy, Peace

JN0105151490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 May 90

[Excerpts] Damascus—Under the patronage of struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Republic, the working class and its professional organization in Syria today declared 1 May the international day of workers. The celebrations were crowned by a speech rally organized by the General Federation of Trade Unions at the United Arab Company for Industry in Damascus this morning. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi deputized for President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Mr. Al-Zu'bi delivered a speech in which he conveyed President al-Asad's greetings, love, and congratulations to the brother workers in Syria on this day, which symbolizes the revolution of the working class against the forces of injustice and domination—the revolution that raised the slogans of fairness and socialism. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi said: The leadership of President al-Asad has built a popular democratic system in Syria based on political and economic pluralism. It thus defined an ideological, political, and economic strategy to embody the role of the people in all their parties, groups, and sons. The National Progressive Front emerged as a symbol of national unity, and the parliamentary institution, represented by the People's Assembly, has been in existence since 1970. The Assembly assumed the role of legislation, reflecting the will of the nation. Popular organizations were also established to allow the masses to have their own social and trade entities.

The prime minister explained that under the democratic system laid down and implemented by President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria managed, over two decades, to build a broad base for industry and to develop agriculture intensively. The system of economic pluralism, represented by public, private, and mixed sectors, succeeded in bearing the burden of industrial and agricultural progress. Syria also managed to establish an extensive network of services covering all sectors, and this allowed all activists in the country to participate widely in the political, economic, and social life. Al-Zu'bi stressed that this ever growing experience is becoming deeply entrenched in Syria, and he said that world changes have proven the validity of this policy and option.

Twenty years after the Corrective Movement, al-Zu'bi added, Syria now stands in the most cohesive position economically, the most deeply united position socially and nationally, the most open-minded position politically, and the strongest and most steadfast position militarily.

He added: Syria's historic strategy in confronting the Zionist enemy is firm on both the Arab and international scenes because Israel lies in wait for the Arabs. When al-Asad's Syria calls for effective Arab solidarity against Zionist designs, it aims to underline the pan-Arab nature of the battle against Israel and its allies. He stressed that

developments have proven that aggressive and expansionist Israel is resisting all moves toward genuine peace based on justice and principles. Real peace has only one way; namely, deterring Israel's expansionism and opting for the international conference.

The prime minister talked about the situation in Lebanon. He stressed that Syria put all its power on the side of the Lebanese and their national march to restore Lebanon's unity and health, and liberate it from Israeli occupation.

Al-Zu'bi said that Syria has been working to achieve a unified Arab position to support the steadfast Palestinian intifadah and to counter the Zionist threat to Arabs. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Emergency Status Lifted; Night Curfew Remains

BK0405100890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0943 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 4 (AFP)—A six hour night curfew and military operations against the Afghan resistance continued Friday [4 May] after the government had lifted a state of emergency, officials said here. President Najibullah removed the 14-month long emergency which had given him extraordinary powers at midnight (1730 GMT) Thursday [3 May], clearing the way for radical constitutional reforms aimed at ending the country's dragging civil war. The emergency was first imposed in February of last year, a few days after the February 15 compeletion of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Officials here said the routine night curfew continued through dawn Friday and security forces kept up their search operations and attacks against rebel mujahidin positions.

Presidential spokesman Sarwar Yuresh described the lifting of the emergency as mainly a political move aimed at convening a loya jirga or grand national assembly by the end of the month to rewrite the country's constitution.

"This lifting of the emergency does not mean an end to the war. We are in a defensive position. It is the other side that wants to continue the war," Mr. Yuresh said.

A top military commander here, Lieutenant General Abdul Ghafur Hamidi, told reporters Thursday that lifting of emergency laws meant little as far as security operations were concerned.

"We carried out operations before the emergency was imposed, so ending the emergency will not mean our calling off operations," Lt. Gen. Hamidi said, adding that his soldiers were continuing an offensive against mujahidin resistance fighters in the nearby Paghman Mountains. The battle in the snow-covered Paghman Mountains, just 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of here, continued for the 20th straight day Thursday, the general said, adding that fighting would continue until his men neutralized the rebels.

Afghan soldiers armed with automatic assault rifles and tanks guarded key installations here and troops continued routine searches of cars and trucks Friday.

Residents appeared by and large cool to the lifting of the emergency.

"I knew there was an emergency only when the government announced that it was being lifted. It does not make any difference to our lives," a private sector employee said.

Diplomats here noted that Mr. Najibullah's decision to lift the emergency and press ahead with political and economic reforms came ahead of the superpower summit scheduled for May 30. There have been hectic diplomatic moves to hammer out a formula for lasting peace in Afghanistan before the summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, diplomats here said.

Mr. Najibullah's initiatives have been totally rejected by the militant opposition based in Pakistan which sees him as a puppet of the Soviet Union. The ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) has in the past weeks been trying to distance itself publicly from communism and present itself as a national democratic party.

Najibullah Wants U.S. Deal on Stinger Missiles

LD0305171990 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The press department of the Presidency of Afghanistan reports: Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received this morning, [name indistinct], a reporter for THE NEW YORK TIMES, at the Presidency headquarters for an interview. In the course of the interview, esteemed Najibullah spoke about the political-military situation of the country. In a part of the interview, the president of Afghanistan pointed out that the United States, in recent years, has increased the quantity and quality of weapons, which it supplies to the extremist groups opposing the state.

Esteemed Najibullah said that in the past these modern weapons, like the Stinger missile, were not even supplied to U.S. allies. However, a large number of these weapons, without the United States exercising effective control over them, have now been introduced to the battlefield in Afghanistan. If a number of such weapons, for example the Stinger missiles, come into the possession of terrorist individuals and groups, there will be foul consequences for international peace and security. It is obvious that the responsible U.S. authorities and people realise precisely the danger of proliferation and careless distribution of such weapons.

The esteemed Afghan president said that in addition to capturing a number of Stinger missiles from the opposition armed groups in the course of military operations by the Republic of Afghanistan, a number of them, numbering in the tens, have been purchased from a number of commanders of the opposition armed groups in exchange for money.

Esteemed Najibullah added: We do not hide the fact that a number of foreign sources have asked us several times to put these missiles at their disposal in exchange for a large amount of money. But, the Republic of Afghanistan is aware of the dangerous consequences of such a deal, which would undoubtedly help international terrorism, and feels seriously responsible and does not want to engage in such an action.

The esteemed president pointed out that we are ready to exchange the number of Stinger missiles in our possession for a fixed price with their original source, that is, the United States.

The press department of the Presidency adds that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, in the course of the interview with [name indistinct], reporter for THE NEW YORK TIMES, expressed the hope that the United States, in line with its humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan, will help Afghanistan prevent the smuggling of narcotics and establish a hospital for treating narcotic addicts. Esteemed Najibullah said that since the U.S. Government has expressed great interest in preventing the illegal production and transportation of narcotics and in treating addicts in the world, we hope the United States will positively answer this proposal by Afghanistan.

Najibullah Receives Soviet POW Delegation

LD0305063890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0527 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 2, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan today in the presidential palace had a meeting with Andronov head of the All Soviet Mothers and Relatives of the Soviet Prisoners of War Association.

President Najibullah in this meeting talked on the endeavours of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan in connection with the issues pertaining to the release of the Soviet prisoners of war who are still under the custody of the Afghan opposition forces, and assured the delegation on the fact that the state of the RA, and the, People of Afghanistan by using all the possibilities, will spare no efforts for the termination of sorrows and grieves of the Soviet mothers, and will arduously fulfill their humanitarian tasks to this end.

Reciprocally, Andronov, while two Soviet mothers whose sons are disappeared in Afghanistan were also present, expressed gratitude to the endeavours of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, particularly of President Najibullah for preparing ground for the release of the Soviet prisoners of war.

In this meeting, the message of those Soviet mothers whose sons have been freed from the arrest of the Afghan opposition as per the efforts of the Afghan state, was also handed over to President Najibullah.

Meanwhile, in this meeting which was also participated by Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Kabul, the sides talked on the utilization of all possible means for the release of the Soviet prisoners of war, living still under the custody of armed opposition forces.

Bahar Discusses Technical Cooperation With PRC

LD0305191790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] 'Abdullah Bahar, minister of light industry and foodstuffs, recently met the charge d'affaires and commercial attache of the PRC Embassy in Kabul. A friendly exchange of views took place concerning trade and technical cooperation with China in the area of light industry and foodstuffs, in particular, concerning technical assistance to the Bagrami textile mill.

The PRC charge d'affaires and commercial attache expressed his country's readiness in this regard.

Presidential Decree Creates Narcotics Commission

LD0205205590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] The Office of the Presidency reported that the following decree on the formation of a high commission to combat the production, trafficking, and use of narcotic substances, has been issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan:

Presidential decree on setting up a high commission to combat the production, trafficking, and use of narcotic substances:

Human society now, more than any other time, perceives the undesirable economic and social effects of the production, trafficking, and use of narcotic substances which are not limited to one country or region . The production and trafficking of narcotic substances, particularly in the areas under the control of the opposition groups, have increased in recent years. This is cause for grave concern by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and by international society.

In recognizing this fact that the production and use of narcotic substances are contrary to the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, the laws of the Republic of Afghanistan, and all human standards the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, observing its commitments under the international treaty on opium concluded 13 January 1912, the international treaty on [word indistinct] production and regulation of narcotic substances concluded 21 June 1935, and a single treaty on narcotic substances concluded on 19 March 1963, sees its duty to struggle against this phenomenon with all available means and is ready for comprehensive cooperation with countries of the region and relevant international organizations for the elimination of narcotic substances.

I therefore approve the following points for the purpose of intensifying struggle against the cultivation, processing, distribution, trafficking, and addiction to narcotic substances:

Article 1: The struggle against the production, trafficking, and use of narcotic substances is regarded as a legal and Islamic struggle in the Republic of Afghanistan in order to safeguard the economy and the morals of society.

Article 2: The resolution passed on 24 April 1990 of the Council of Ministers on preventing the production, trafficking, and use of narcotic substances as well as measures for the treatment of addicts, is thus affirmed and the relevant organs should take and apply the necessary measures for its complete implementation.

Article 3: In order to regulate even further the struggle against narcotic substances, a high state commission under the chairmanship of General Mohammad Rafi, vice president, should be set up with the following composition: the chief justice, the attorney general, the deputy prime minister, the minister of internal affairs, the minister of justice, the minister of agriculture and land reform, the minister of education and training, the minister of public of health, the minister of information and culture, the minister of islamic affairs and endowment, the deputy minister of internal affairs, the deputy defense minister, and the deputy minister of security.

Article 4: The commission is tasked with drafting and preparing a national program to combat narcotic substances, to bring the necessary coordination in the work and activities of the relevant organs, and to attract the (?possibilities) and cooperation of social organizations in the Republic of Afghanistan; to secure and direct the assistance of international organizations and interested countries; and to secure the control and application of the commission's decisions.

Article 5: In order to regulate the work of the commission subsidiary committees and the commission's secretariat should be set up.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Keshtmand Increases Ration Coupon Allowances

LD0305211890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] In consideration of the fact that a relative improvement has been made in the distribution of commodities in ration coupons and in transport of basic goods from the borders to the capital and provinces, and for the purpose of further assistance to government employees, pensioners, disabled, and families of the martyrs, and to prevent rise in food prices as well as to take care of [word indistinct] government employees and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan approves the following:

1. The following increase in the commodities of ration coupons to couponholders are being approved from the beginning of 1369 [21 March 1990]:

Flour for married couponholders is being increased from 50 kg to 56 kg per month; and for single couponholders from 25 kg to 28 kg as free of charge.

Ghee for married couponholders from 4 kg to 7 kg per month and for single couponholders from 2 kg to 3.5 kg as free of charge.

Sugar for married couponholders from 4 kg to 7 kg and for single couponholders from 2 kg to 3.5 kg as 30 afghanis per each kilogram.

2. The Ministry of Commerce and, the Supply of Requirement enterprise are being commissioned to organize affairs seriously and effectively for timely distribition of rations of couponholders in accordance with Article 1 of this resolution.

3. The Ministry of Finance will transfer, when required, sums of money stemming from variation in the volume of monthly subsidy arising from increase of commodities in ration coupons [word indistinct] from the balance of government budget, to the Ministry of Commerce and the Supply of Requirement enterprise, and to bring necessary amendments in financial plan for 1369 of the above enterprise and other enterprises.

4. In consideration of the accepted increase in the amount of flour of couponholders the Ministry of Light Industry and Foodstuffs will meet the need of the Ministry of Commerce and the Supply of Requirement enterprise with the above commodities whenever asked.

5. The relevant ministries and departments should take timely and effective action for maintaining the completion of fixed state material reserves and the purchase of agricultural products from inside the country in accordance with previous instruction of the Council of ministers.

6. The Ministry of Commerce should control the implementation of this resolution and report to the Council of Ministers about the nature of its application at the end of the second quarter of 1369.

[Signed] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee.

Five Rebel Missiles Hit Kabul; 11 Injured

LD0305164990 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] As a result of five surface-to-surface missiles fired by the Pakistani-backed extremists hitting residential regions of Kabul city, 11 of our Muslim and religious compatriots were injured.

The military section of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that those injured in this mishap were quickly taken to hospitals and taken under intensive treatment.

The firing of these rockets caused material losses, too.

According to another report, the units and subunits of Kabul garrison in retaliation for the missile attacks on the residential regions of Kabul city by the enemy, have embarked on a mopping-up operation and artillery fire near Kabul city, as a result of which 23 men attached to extremist groups were crushed.

Mopping-Up Operations Carried Out, Reported

LD0305181690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The units and subunits of the Armed Forces stationed in Khowst District are engaged in strengthening and consolidating their previous positions, and they discharge their patriotic duties with high morale and combat preparedness.

Quoting a competent source of the Armed Forces, the military section of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that the Pakistani militarists, armed extremists, and Saudi Wahhabis have been carrying out intermittent heavy-weapon firing in the past two days at some regions in Khowst city, security posts around the city, and the first line of the subunits, from the southern direction. In retaliation for this criminal action the firing positions and resisting points of the enemy were put under air raid and artillery fire, as a result of which 31 Pakistani-backed warmongers were forced out of the battle-front. One tank, two ZK-1's, and three rocket launchers of theirs were destroyed. According to another report, some of the subunits carried out ambush operations in Khoki region, as a result of whch one radio communcation set and several light weapons of the enemy were seized.

The units and subunits of Khowst District are with a high combat spirit ready to repulse every probable attack by the enemy.

The source added that some units and subunits stationed in Nangarhar Province have carried out combat operations against the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and armed extremists [as heard] at the directions of east and south of Kama bridge, in order to foil and repulse the enemy attacks and put themselves in a better position. Despite resistance by the armed extremists attached to Pakistan, the combat operation progressed and the extremists group were pushed fiercely back from key positions and heights.

The Pakistani-backed extremists carried out heavy-weapon firing on some regions of Jalalabad city on 1 May. In order to neutralize these criminal actions, the positions of the armed extremist groups were put under air raid and artillery fire. As a result of these crushing blows and successful combat operations by the subunits in the past two days, 110 warmongers, including Mola Anar, one of the ringleaders of Mojaddedi extremist group, were pushed out of the battle front; six mortars, two motorvehicles carrying weapons and ammunition, two rocket launchers, and 12 light weapons of the enemy's were destroyed; and 25 boxes of DShK ammunition, 26 boxes of ZK-1 ammunition, and 50 shells for rocket launchers, 300 shells for recoilless guns, and 150 rounds of [word indistinct] of the enemy were seized. The report adds that as a result of crushing blows inflicted on the extremist armed groups, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis, their combat morale has been lowered and they were continuously pushed back from positions and key points. As a result of firing by the warmongers, four personnel of the subunits and seven of the inhabitants were martyred, and five of the army personnel and six of the inhabitants were injured.

The source added that the units and subunits in Qandahar Province are mostly engaged in strengthening and consolidating their previous defensive positions. The Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis carried out firing at some security posts of Qandahar garrison and surroundings of Qalat city in the past two days, which did not cause any loss of life. In retaliation for this criminal action the positions of the warmongers attached to Pakistan were put under artillery fire, as a result of which 12 armed extremists were crushed. The subunits are enjoying high combat preparedness.

Opposition Convoy Ambushed; Weapons Destroyed

LD0305194790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Organs of the Ministry of State Security carried out an ambush at parts of Ghazni Province as a result of which it destroyed a large supply convoy belonging to the extremist group of Gulbuddin. Its guards were killed.

The military section of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reports that in the course of this ambush 10 guards of the convoy either have been killed or wounded and tens of light and heavy weapons, hundreds of surface-to-surface American [as heard] SAKR-type missiles, cluster missiles and rockets, thousands of rounds for assorted weapons, and vehicles belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

India

Gujral Rejects Japanese Mediation on Kashmir

BK0305150990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpts] The external affairs minister, Mr. Gujral, has said that India is ready to accept the Pakistan prime minister's offer of talks on Kashmir provided there are no preconditions. Mr. Gujral made this remark in the Rajya Sabha while replying to clarifications on his statement about his recent talks with the Pakistani foreign minister in New York. [passage omitted]

Reiterating that India will never compromise on its territorial integrity, Mr. Gujral said New Delhi will not tolerate any infringement on the country's sovereignty. Islamabad should be aware that India is ready to foil any design if Pakistan hopes to gain by fomenting insurgency in Kashmir and Punjab.

Referring to the talks with the U.S. and other leaders in New York, Mr. Gujral said generally most of the leaders in the U.S., China, and the Soviet union endorsed India's stand that the Kashmir issue should be resolved under the Simla agreement.

Referring to the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] chief, Mr. Amanullah Khan, Mr. Gujral said that the government is aware of the press reports that Amanullah Khan has left the United States for Pakistan. New Delhi is trying to verify the reports.

About the Japanese prime minister, Mr. Kaifu's, offer of mediation on Kashmir, the external affairs minister said third-party mediation is irrelevant and redundant.

Gujral: Kashmir Talks Without 'Preconditions'

BK0305124890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The external affairs minister has said India is ready to accept the Pakistan prime minister's offer of talks on Kashmir provided there are no preconditions. Mr. Gujral made this remark in the Rajya Sabha today while replying to clarifications on yesterday's statement about his recent talks with the Pakistan foreign minister in New York.

Reacting to Ms. Benazir Bhutto's statement in Islamabad that she is ready to meet the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Mr. Gujral pointed out that her proposal for a third-party verification of troops movement is unacceptable; so are the other conditions stipulated by Ms. Bhutto on surveillance mechanism to check support to militants in Punjab and Kashmir and her insistence on outdated UN resolutions.

Singh Sees Fleet Exercise, Dismisses Pak Threat

BK0305161790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Addressing a public meeting the prime minister asserted that India is strong enough to protect its borders and any attempts of threat by Pakistan would be repulsed. He reiterated the country's desire to have friendly relations with neighboring countries, including Pakistan. The prime minister thanked leaders of all political parties for their support to the government on the issues concerning the unity and integrity of the country.

Addressing sailors and officers at Vishakhapatnam, the prime minister underlined the need for a strong navy to protect the country's trade, maritime, and security interests. Earlier, the prime minister witnessed for about three hours the fleet exercises by the eastern naval fleet.

Press Criticizes Bhutto Proposal on Kashmir Summit

BK0405064090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0614 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 4 (AFP)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's proposal for a summit on Kashmir was slammed by the Indian press Friday [4 May] as insincere and an attempt to play to the gallery. Indian newspapers said the proposal was hedged with conditions that were unacceptable to New Delhi, notably her insistence on a dialogue within the framework of a U.N. resolution calling for a plebiscite in the disputed state.

The INDIAN EXPRESS noted that the proposal, aired Wednesday [2 May] following mediation by Japan, came in response to Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's offer to take two steps forward to resolve the dispute if Islamabad took one.

"What she in turn has said amounts to appearing to take one step forward while actually taking two backward," the pro-government daily said in an editorial.

"This is the plain meaning of her willingness to negotiate 'in the spirit of' the Simla Agreement and 'on the basis of' the worn-out U.N. proposals of 42 years ago," it added, accusing Ms. Bhutto of speaking with a "forked tongue."

India has insisted that any dialogue over Kashmir be strictly confined to the framework of the 1972 Simla Agreement, which ended the third India-Pakistan war, and holds that the accord invalidated all previous resolutions on Kashmir.

The Simla pact reached by Ms. Bhutto's father, executed Prime Minister Zulfiqar 'Ali Bhutto, and slain Indian Premier Indira Gandhi, called for a step-by-step resolution of all disputes strictly through bilateral talks without the use of force.

"While professing adherence to the Simla pact, Pakistan goes on demanding the involvement of outsiders in settling the question and insisting on the implementation of the obsolete U.N. resolution," the TIMES OF INDIA said.

"In brief, Pakistan wants to eat its cake and have it too," the pro-establishment daily said, charging that Ms. Bhutto was playing to the international gallery while "actually continuing to stir the pot of contention."

The NATIONAL HERALD agreed, saying it was doubtful whether a summit meeting would help end the tension on Kashmir and adding that Ms. Bhutto's suggestion would "rake up the issues that were long consigned to the limbo of history."

The editorials came a day after Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral implicitly turned down the summit proposal, saying the conditions stipulated by the Pakistani premier were unacceptable.

Tensions over Kashmir, where Muslim militants are leading a violent separatist drive, have plunged relations between India and Pakistan to an all-time low and sparked off war fears following belligerent statements and reports of troop buildups on both sides of the tense border.

Meeting Reviews Pakistan Border Security

BK0405033290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] In Punjab, fencing all along the international border with Pakistan will be further extended, and more floodlights installed. Electrified barbed wire fencing is also

being considered for some critical areas. The sealing of the weak points along the line of actual control in Jammu and Kashmir [J and K] and the international border in J and K and Punjab was reviewed yesterday at a high-level meeting in New Delhi. It discussed measures for better coordination among the Army, the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], and the BSF [Border Security Force] for preventing infiltration. The meeting also decided that the Jammu border will be treated the same way as the line of actual control in the Kashmir Valley. The meeting was held at the instance of the prime minister and was attended by the defense and the home secretaries, the director generals of the CRPF and the BSF.

Singh Notes 'Commitment' to Peace, Good Relations

BK0105162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] The prime minister has said India will continue to work for enduring peace and prosperity in the neighborhood and across the world for a better tomorrow. Reiterating India's firm commitment to peace, Mr. Singh made it clear that the country is capable of meeting any challenge that is thrust upon it. The prime minister was delivering the fourth Indira Gandhi Memorial Lecture on India's contribution to international peace in New Delhi today.

Referring to the Simla agreement, Mr. Singh said it is a viable framework for a durable peace which commits India and Pakistan to settle their differences by peaceful means. He expressed his sincere hope that good sense will prevail and the Simla agreement will be honored in letter and spirit by Pakistan.

Mr. Singh said his government is making special efforts to revitalize and strengthen ties with the neighboring countries which are of special importance to us. He said that there has been a significant improvement in India's relations with China and the two countries have a political will to find a fair, reasonable and mutually-acceptable settlement of their boundary question.

The prime minister welcomed the steps toward democratization in Nepal and expressed readiness to find ways and means for resolving all outstanding issues with Kathmandu.

Referring to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], the prime minister said that the countries of the region should pool their talents and work for collective prosperity to meet the challenges faced by SAARC. The vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, presided over the function. The lecture was organized by the association of Indian diplomats.

Cabinet Approves National Security Council

BK0405035790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] The union cabinet has approved a proposal to constitute a national security council which will decide collectively all matters relating to the security of the country. This was disclosed by the prime minister to newsmen on board the Indian Airlines plane on his way back to Delhi from Visakhapatnam yesterday evening.

Mr. V.P. Singh said that it is not proper to cast any aspersion on the performance of the Indian peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka which has done a commendable job under a very difficult situation.

In reply to a question, the prime minister expressed the hope that the Sri Lankan government will fulfill its promise to the Tamils of the Northeastern Province by devolving power to them.

Further Reportage on ADB New Delhi Meeting

Japan's Hashimoto Speaks on China

OW0305062790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0508 GMT 3 May 90

[By Waka Hamada]

[Text] New Delhi, May 3 KYODO—Japan expressed strong hope on Thursday [3 May] that China and the international community will strive to normalize their relationship, which has been crippled since Beijing's crackdown on China's pro-democracy movement last June.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's finance minister, is representing the Japanese delegation to the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He expressed disappointment that economic relations between China and developed countries are "somewhat different from those in the past."

Western governments, Japan and international bodies, including the Manila-based ADB, concertedly have imposed economic sanctions on China, including suspension of lending to the country, in protest against China's military suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators June 4. Though ADB governors are expected to discuss resuming loans at the three-day meeting that began Wednesday, analysts said early resolution of the issue is unlikely.

With support from the United States, the World Bank partially resumed lending to China in February, granting loans for projects involving "humanitarian needs." The World Bank continues its freeze on loans for commercial purposes.

Japan has postponed a decision whether to grant China an 810 billion yen package of official credits promised for 1990-95, which was put on hold last June.

Stressing the need for expanded resources to tackle mounting problems facing the ADB, Hashimoto said Japan hopes the bank's capital resources will be replenished with the blessing of all 49 member nations. In particular, he said, the members are required to finish negotiations "by an appropriate time in the next year"

on the planned fifth replenishment of the Asian Development Fund (ADF), the bank's window for lending on soft terms.

Pledging continuous, active assistance to the bank, Hashimoto said Japan will add this year about 8 billion yen to the ADB's Japan Special Fund (JSF), which now totals about 12.4 billion yen. The JSF, established in 1988, is designed to contribute to the accelerated economic growth of developing member countries of the bank.

In view of the need for stepped-up efforts for environmental preservation, Hashimoto also unveiled a Japanese plan to create a 600 million yen environmental protection-related leading facility in the JSF. Hashimoto said the bank should not only boost its lending but also better meet that fund requirements of the needy in the new decade. He also called on the bank to put greater emphasis on support for the private sector, technical aid, and poverty alleviation as well as environmental protection.

The bank, a traditional financier for the public sector, last year formed the Asian Finance Corporation (AFC) to boost development activity in the private sector in the region.

Hashimoto also said the bank also should do more to help women, who are still suffering discrimination in most Asian nations.

Partial Credit to PRC Discussed

OW0305153690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1510 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 3 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told the head of China's central bank on Thursday [3 May] that he is positive toward unfreezing part of an 810 billion yen aid package to China, suspended since Beijing's crackdown on the prodemocracy movement last June, Japanese officials said.

Hashimoto made the remarks at a meeting with Li Guixian, governor of the People's Bank of China, they said. Both were in the Indian capital to attend the 23rd annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The officials said Hashimoto told Li that he favors reopening the untied portions of Japan's loan package to China, earmarked for 1990-95, to help improve the livelihood of the Chinese people. But he hinted that his view on the issue is more liberal than that held by other Japanese Government officials, saying that the Tokyo government is not ready to go further.

The officials said Li, while appreciating Hashimoto's appeal to ADB governors to normalize economic ties with China, repeated China's position that Japan should release the funds, first promised by then Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in 1988. Li also asked for Japanese support to convince international development banks such as the World Bank and the ADB to unfreeze development funds committed to China, the officials said.

Hashimoto told Li any move toward a resumption of official credits to China from the West would require coordination among the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations.

Hashimoto said China should improve relations with major Western powers, especially those in Europe, if it wants Western development funds released.

Taiwan Minister Protests Designation

OW0305181190 Taipei CNA in English 1555 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 3 (CNA)—Finance Minister Shirley Kuo Thursday [3 May] made a protest against the Asian Development Bank for its arbitrary change in the designation of the Republic of China [ROC]. Kuo, who heads an 11-member ROC delegation to the ADB's 23rd annual board conference, said at the meeting: "I wish to register once again our protest against the arbitrary change in the designation of my country, a founding member of the ADB and a member in good standing by any criterion." She stressed: "Our attendance at this meeting does not imply in any way that we accept any such designation other than the Republic of China."

Earlier in the day, most of the 46-member mainland Chinese delegation left the meeting hall soon after U.S. representative George A. Folsom started a speech.

The mainland Chinese delegation's sudden action, which did not attract that attention of most participants in the meeting, was taken to protest against Washington's opposition to Peking's attempt to borrow money from the bank without improving the human rights condition on the Chinese mainland.

U.S. Stand on Replenishment Noted

BK0305163590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] India has expressed the hope that the stalemate in the starting of negotiations for the sixth replenishment to the Asian Development Fund would be solved amicably. The finance minister, Professor Madhu Dandavate, who chaired the 23d Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank in New Delhi, told newsmen today that it has been India's stand that bilateral trade negotiations should be done without prejudice to the multilateral trading system.

The move to start negotiations for the sixth replenishment to the Asian Development Fund ran into rough weather today when the United States announced that there is no cause for beginning the negotiations immediately. The U.S. representative, Mr. George Folsom, told the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank that the life of the present replenishment can be extended for another year. He said the bank's suggestion of a $10.4 billion replenishment is not realistic.

AIR [All India Radio] Correspondent Sebastian Robert reports that barring the United States all other representatives, including those from industrialized countries, favored beginning of negotiations on the sixth replenishment immediately. India's representative, Mr. Bimal Jalan, told the conference that a speedy solution to the next replenishment negotiations will enable access of India to the resources for poverty elimination program.

No Progress on Key Issues

BK0405132390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1247 GMT 4 May 90

[By Ian Simpson]

[Text] New Delhi, May 4 (AFP)—The annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank ended here Friday [4 May] after three days of talks without agreement on the major issues facing the bank. Many of the 1,500 delegates flew out of the Indian capital after the key speeches were made Thursday [3 May], leaving a near-empty hall to listen to the 12 addresses Friday morning.

Before the meeting opened Wednesday [2 May], all the talk was of lending to China and Vietnam and replenishing the bank's soft loan fund. However, by the end of Friday's session neither of these issues had been resolved and differences between the two sides were if anything wider than before.

China, India and the bank's other developing member countries were clearly disappointed at the lack of progress during the three-day meeting, but the United States and Japan appeared satisfied at the success of their delaying tactics. China, Vietnam and Afghanistan made strong pleas for the resumption of lending to their impoverished countries, but the United States, Japan and bank officials remained unmoved.

"After last year, it was just a routine meeting," one bank official said, referring to the 1989 annual meeting in Beijing which coincided with the height of student protests in Tienanmen Square. Last year's meeting was dominated by heated disputes over the establishment of a new private-sector lending body, which was in the end pushed through at the insistence of then bank president Masao Fujioka.

This year's meeting reflected the softer approach taken by Mr. Fujioka's successor, Kimimasa Tarumizu, who has already gained a reputation for consensus management since he took over the bank in December.

On Tuesday [1 May], one day before the official business of the meeting began, the 22 mainly Western donors to the soft-loan Asian Development Fund met to discuss a timetable for replenishing the fund, which was originally set to run until the end of 1990. Bank figures show that resources are sufficient for the fund to continue functioning until mid-1991 or even the beginning of 1992 and bank officials were therefore anxious to begin the long process of negotiations on a new fund, which they hoped would reach triple the current total of 3.6 billion dollars.

However, Washington insisted that the current fund would last well into 1992 and refused to discuss any replenishment until much later in the year. The U.S. position was backed by Japan, in a departure from the traditional rivalry between the two countries at the ADB. Tuesday's meeting broke up with no agreement on a timetable or an amount for the fund's replenishment.

During the official sessions of the conference, many of the 49 speeches referred to the soft-loan negotiations, with many developing countries including the smaller Pacific nations appealing for an early resumption of talks. However, the United States firmly dismissed the need to start talks and said the 10.4 billion dollar figure the bank had proposed for the replenishment was "beyond the realm of what is either realistic or desirable."

Several speeches also referred to the need to keep the bank's lending decisions non-political. Chinese central bank governor Li Guixian told the meeting, "It is clearly stated in the bank's charter that the bank should not intervene in the political affairs of its members." India's Finance Secretary Bimal Jalan added that "political actions, be they in the nature of a policy advice or decisions on access to bank resources, go against the very precepts on which international development institutions have been founded."

Nepal, Vietnam and Afghanistan, among other developing members, also insisted on the need for the bank to remain politically neutral and to take decisions based purely on economic criteria. Bank lending to China, Vietnam and Afghanistan, as well as Cambodia and Burma, has been suspended for what bank officials insist are economic reasons but delegates from these countries maintain are political considerations.

Afghanistan's finance minister said Friday that the decision not to lend to Kabul was "a regrettable misstep ... based on non-economic factors." However, earlier in the week one Western official at the ADB said "anarchy is too nice a word" to describe the economic situation in Afghanistan and insisted that the bank's policy had nothing to do with politics.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the bank has an agenda based on free market economics and market liberalisation and puts pressure on member countries to conform or adapt to these policies. This policy was criticised by several delegations during the meeting.

In his opening address to the meeting, Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh told delegates, "There is no blueprint for economic success," adding that "each country must develop its own policies" rather than responding to external pressures. However, deputy assistant secretary to the U.S. Treasury George Folsom in his speech Thursday said all countries should work to

open their economies to foreign investment and trade without imposing restrictions.

U.S. Criticized Over Super 301 'Hit List'

BK0405090990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] India has decried the U.S. action of singling out New Delhi for keeping it on the hit list under the Super 301 law. The commerce minister, Mr. Arun Nehru, today made it clear that India will not relent its stand and will not enter into any negotiations with Washington on the subject which are in the domain of our sovereign decision making and concern India's basic economic policies, and that too under the threat of U.S. retaliation. [sentence as heard]

Mr. Arun Nehru was making a statement in reply to a calling-attention motion on the subject moved by Mr. Prakash Koko Brahma Bhatt, Janata Dal; and four other members belonging to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Congress-I in the Lok Sabha today. The minister said India's policies are geared to meet our socioeconomic objectives and are designed to addressing the problems arising out of our economic situation.

Pakistan 'Not Cooperating' in Anti-Drug Measures

BK0405092390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] India has criticized Pakistan for not cooperating in checking drug trafficking despite a bilateral arrangement. The deputy finance minister, Mr. Anil Shastri, told the Lok Sabha today that the illicit narcotics trade finds its way to India from the Golden Crescent area through Pakistan.

The minister said during the first three months of this year, more than 1,200 people have been arrested in drug-related cases.

He denied the allegation of an opposition member that the refugees from Sri Lanka are involved in the trade.

President's Rule in Punjab Extended Six Months

BK0305161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Parliament has approved extension of president's rule in Punjab for a period of six months beyond the 10th of this month. A statutory resolution to this effect was passed by the Rajya Sabha today. An amendment moved by Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, Janata Party, that elections to the state assembly be held by the 15th of August was rejected. The Lok Sabha passed the resolution yesterday.

Replying to the debate on the resolution, the minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kanmt Sahay, said that the government is determined to restore democratic process in the state. He hoped that the welfare measures being taken will improve the overall situation. He said the center will not force any leader on Punjab, but will accept the verdict of the people. He said the misguided youth will be brought in the national mainstream. He hinted that the proposed advisory committee on Punjab will be constituted soon.

Earlier, participating in the debate, members cutting across party lines felt that frequent postponement of elections will strengthen the hands of antisocial elements and misguided youth. Initiating the discussion, Mr. H.S. Hanspal of the Congress-I wanted the government to come out with a clear policy on Punjab to solve the problem.

Burma Regime Warned Against 'Foreign Adventure'

BK0205101190 Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Apr 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Burma's Military Tyrants"]

[Text] What is surprising is the fact that the regime in Myanmar (Burma), which has been engaged in bloody and ruthless repression, has managed to avoid the condemnation earned by the Chinese or Romanian governments. Yet, the despotic regime of General Saw Maung has reacted even more savagely than either of them. Not only have hundreds or rather thousands of citizens protesting against tyranny and for restoration of a democratic system been shot down, but the government having yielded to international pressure and agreed to democratic elections decided to make a mockery of the process. Multi-party elections are to be held on May 27, but with the leading members of the opposition parties being in jail or under house arrest, when they have not been debarred from contesting these elections, it is certain, unless something extraordinary happens, that the military sponsored National Unity Party and some government supported individuals will win the elections. But if the devious and ruthless puppet master General Ne Win, who continues to pull the strings, believes that it will confer legitimacy on his government he is very much mistaken; the people of Burma have thrown off their political torpor—they will not accept a government whose sole support is brute force exercised through the military. Ne Win and Saw Maung and the small group of economic and political predators who claim to exercise authority over Burma, are aware of this; they have used the resources they have been able to raise by selling logging and fishing licences and part of the embassy land in Tokyo to procure more sophisticated weapons for use against the suffering people of their country. There is a real danger that a government of this nature, in order to gain some popular support might engage in a foreign adventure. Reports say that Burmese troops have pursued some ethnic rebels into Indian territory. Some ethnic groups are found on both sides of the border; but the military government should be warned that any provocative action against the tribes on the Indian side would lead to a serious response.

Spokesman on Refugees' Return From Sri Lanka

BK0305041690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] India has expressed its willingness to discuss the modalities of repatriation of the people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka and that of Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the 1987 India-Sri Lanka agreement stated that the repatriation of Indian citizens would proceed concurrently with the repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees.

He was commenting on the statement of the Sri Lankan minister, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, that his government would soon commence repatriation of 100,000 such people to India. The number of Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu is roughly the same as that of Indian citizens in Sri Lanka awaiting repatriation.

New CPI Leader Said To Reflect 'New Thinking'

BK0305101090 Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Apr 90 p 1

[By Sadhan Mukherjee]

[Text] With the handing over of the mantle of general-secretaryship of the Communist Party of India [CPI] by C. Rajeswara Rao to Indrajit Gupta on April 20, one can possibly say that an era has ended and a possibility has come up of a new phase in the CPI. No doubt, the changeover though smooth and unanimous does not represent any infusion of fresh blood as it were but possibly it does represent a certain degree of new thinking in the party.

This is so because Rajeswara Rao indeed personified the old school of thinking and though he had scientific training in his college days, his thinking process has been much too overpowered with the Telengana days and subsequently by the fallouts of the inner-party struggle. Nevertheless, he steered the CPI in the most difficult days and for 26 long years rendered yeoman service to the party and made it what it is today through ups and downs of political fortune.

There is no doubt that Rao found himself at sea with the tremendous changes taking place in the international communist and working class movement. The changes that took place in Eastern Europe and the process of change that is in full swing in the Soviet Union and even the theoretical-ideological shifts that are discernible in the communist movement left him rather helpless. Coupled with his failing health—he has severe bronchial asthma and cataracts in both eyes which prevents him from reading—the onerous tasks of general secretaryship became a big burden for him. At 76 it is rather hard to deal with so many problems at one go.

However, national issues, specially such problems as the communal problems, divisive forces, united front tactics and similar issues have been Rao's strong points. He is one CPI leader who has been extensively touring the country, going even to the most remote areas of Nagaland, Manipur and so on. He knows leading party cadres closely, knows their weaknesses and strong points. He realises how in a highly complicated political arena of India, one should operate deftly.

If Rajeswara Rao had a streak of very practical sense of operational priorities and quite rustic approach to problems, Indrajit Gupta is quite something else. Coming from a blue-blooded family, his father was the first secretary of the Constituent Assembly, Indrajit learnt his Marxism in England as a student. He remains a gentleman. Returning to India in early 1941, Indrajit plunged into trade union work and devoted his entire heart and soul into it. He has authored several booklets and the best industry-study of the All India Trade Union Congress [AITUC]—on jute industry—has been his contribution. He was the obvious choice to be the general secretary of the AITUC where S.A. Dange relinquished that position. Indrajit also became and continues to be the vice-president of the World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU] and his report on the Asian trade union situation at the World Trade Union Congress in Berlin in 1986 is reflective of the Asian reality and is a highly praised document.

But not only in trade unions, Indrajit is an outstanding parliamentarian and except for once he was returned to the Lok Sabha all the time from 2nd to 8th Lok Sabha. His speeches are remarkable in their richness, presentation and arguments. He is one of those rare figures in the tempestuous Lok Sabha who is listened to with attention cutting across party benches. Despite basically being a trade unionist, Indrajit's command over such subjects as finance, foreign policy and defence is quite extensive.

Indrajit's forte is his reading habit. Indrajit is 71 but he does not look his age. Like Rao, he has very frugal habits and friends say that despite coming from a rich family, he is averse to wanton spending. Quite often he has been described as a person who has "declassed" himself. Maybe that is too much of a claim but no one can miss his simple habits and non-luxurious living. For years he has been living in one room in Western Court.

Indrajit is quite honest about his own weaknesses. He feels that the party general secretaryship is too much of a burden. But since it has been unanimously entrusted to him, he would try it out. He has never been a party leader in the true sense. But he feels that in a truly collective functioning it is possible to do better. He, however, realises that it is no longer possible to work in the old way. It is necessary to mobilise much greater intellectual force behind the party and therefore he is ready to draw upon the party periphery and outside the parameters of wholetime party functionaries.

Indrajit has been quite exposed to the outside world, first because of his education, second due to his links with international organisations and third due to his tremendous parliamentary experience. Indrajit has met many a noted figure in the world including Mikhail Gorbachev

whom he met twice, first as a member of the WFTU delegation and second as a member of the CPI delegation. The first time it was in Moscow and the second in New Delhi.

Rajeswara Rao's wide experience will continue to be available to the CPI. He has been elected by the CPI National Council as a member of the central secretariat after he was relieved of his duties as the general secretary. He will help the party in some specialised areas like the communal issues, tribal problems, and so on.

The party central structure is also to undergo change. There will be a group of younger persons who would help in the day to day work and in helping the study of various subjects. That will help the party in many ways. One hopes that with a new general secretary, the CPI will show better results and present a brighter image.

New Women's Political Party Formed

BK3004163290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] A new political party to be known as Akhil Bharatiya Mahila Dal [All India Women's Party] has been formed. The new party will look for strengthening the social and economic status of women by bringing them into the political field. According to the release, the Akhil Bharatiya Mahila Dal will enlighten women about their rights and duties.

Singh Commissions Soviet-Aided Blast Furnace

BK0305092790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, today dedicated to the nation the country's biggest blast furnance—Godavari—of the Vishakhapatnam steel plant. The modern and integrated 5,800-crore rupee steel plant has the capacity to produce 3 million tons of steel per year. Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said the government has taken a decision to make workers participation in management in the industries. He said a legislation to this effect will be introduced soon in Parliament. He said the workers should take part in decision-making and their representatives should not be nominated, but elected democratically. The decision will also apply to the private sector in stages. The prime minister called for a new industrial relations culture to share the responsibilities in management of the industries.

Mr. Singh said the steel plant will stand as a symbol of friendship between the Soviet Union and India.

Earlier, the prime minister was given a warm welcome on his arrival in Vishakhapatnam. He was received at the airport by the Andhra Pradesh governor, Mr. Krishnakant; the chief minister, Dr. M. Chenna Reddy; the Telugu Desam leader, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, and others. The prime minister has since left to witness naval exercises off the eastern coast.

Space Department Formulates Massive Programs

BK2904101890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] The Department of Space has formulated massive programs for implementation during the eighth plan period. Operationalization of Indian remote sensing spacecrafts, INSAT-2 test spacecraft, and augmented satellite launch vehicle is scheduled to be completed during this period. With a project outlay of 3,842 crore rupees, the department proposes two operational space systems. They are: INSAT and IRS, which will be maintained and expanded to meet the projected demand of services. India has already established infrastructure and capability for manufacturing satellites. The first indigenously-built IRS satellite launched in 1988 is now operational and providing data that is being used for forestry, hydrology and agriculture.

Information Ministry Reports on Radio, TV

BK2704093090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Doordarshan [television] has become one of the world's largest and fastest growing networks covering a population of 52 crore people. It also transmits for over 12 hours every day. The annual report of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for 1989-90 says the Doordarshan achieved a landmark in the expansion of its network by setting up an additional 175 transmitters during 1989-90. With this, the total number of its transmitters had crossed 510 by the middle of February.

The report says the major achievement of the All India Radio was to provide round-the-clock service to listeners, when the national channel broadcast started from the 7th of July last.

The report also adds that the National Film Development Corporation exported Indian films worth 12 million rupees till November last.

'Major Fire' Damages Delhi Government Building

BK0305045490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] A major fire broke out this morning on the second floor F wing of Shastri Bhavan which houses the Janpath telephone exchange and some other offices. The additional secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing, Mr. R.P. Shrivastava, told our correspondent that the fire seems to have started from some papers and files. Thirty-six fire tenders have been fighting the blaze for the last three hours. The fire is still blazing but is under control. One fireman fell from the second floor of the building while removing a cooler and got seriously injured. He has been admitted to the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The telephones are working on a battery

system. The area manager told our correspondent that if the electricity is not available within five hours, the telephone system will be hampered.

14 Killed, 21 Injured in Punjab Incidents

BK0405092490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] In Punjab, 14 persons were killed and 21 injured by terrorists in separate incidents since last night. Terrorists struck in village Kotsurat Malian in Gurdaspur District last night, gunning down seven persons. In Ludhiana city, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire at passers-by at Pratap Chowk locality, killing three and injuring nine. Four persons, including a constable, were shot dead in Amritsar and Kapurthala districts.

In Amritsar city, terrorists lobbed a hand grenade last night on a police post near a religious place, injuring 12 persons, including two members of the security force.

Meanwhile, police have foiled an attempt by terrorists to kidnap two brothers of the senior superintendent of police [SSP], Sangrur. Disclosing this, the SSP, Patiala, said five terrorists went to village Kherichalla in Sangrur District last night a stolen truck and kidnapped the two brothers. The truck was intercepted at a checkpoint where there was a shootout. The terrorists fled leaving behind the truck. Later, the two brothers of the SSP said they were kidnapped to get the release of some terrorists.

Iran

UN Mission Denies Use of Chemical Weapons

LD0405114990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] In a statement, the mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] at the United Nations has denied the recent allegations by the U.S. Government concerning Iran's use of chemical weapons in the course of the imposed war, and has condemned the United States for making efforts to exonerate the Iraqi regime and for releasing false reports.

According to yesterday's edition of the U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST, nearly two years after the conclusion of the Iran-Iraq war, the Pentagon—the U.S. defense ministry—has reviewed the issue and has come to the conclusion that Iran also made use of chemical weapons during the last few days of the war.

In the statement by the IRI UN mission, which reminds everyone of the confirmation by experts from international organizations about the repeated Iraqi crimes in making use of chemical weapons repeatedly and extensively, not only against Iran, but even against its own people. The publication of such reports has no other aim but to support the Iraqi regime.

In this statement, it is also said: Neither THE WASHINGTON POST nor the defense ministry have made any reference, while making this claim by the United States at the present juncture, to the nature of the Iraqi regime, which has been made clear to the whole world due to its repeated crimes and its creation of tension.

In this statement by the IRI UN mission, referring to the fact that the Kurdish people of Iraq, and especially the inhabitants of Halabjah themselves, know better than anyone else who are the perpetrators of that crime, the question has been raised whether making such a claim two years after the Halabjah tragedy can have no motivation other than political motivations.

Commentary on Iranian Role in Hostages' Release

LD0305180390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1115 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Yesterday's remarks by the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, especially about foreign relations and political talks, apart from reiterating the positions of the revolution, at the same time demonstrated the real policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran under present and future conditions.

Recently, following the release of two American hostages in Lebanon, immediately most news sources affiliated with international monopolies publicized this theory as a fact that releasing that number has been due to talks between Iran and the United States, and that in return for freeing those hostages, Iran has demanded a share for itself; and if these steps continue they may be regarded as a sign for paving the way for the resumption of relations between Iran and the United States.

Meanwhile, the views and analyses of some domestic sources have also given rise to the supposition that Iran, in return for exerting her influence for releasing hostages, demands the satisfaction of some of her needs, including freeing four Iranian hostages who have been detained for the past eight years by a Maronite paramilitary organization. This is despite the fact Dr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, has said in the past that Iran's demand for releasing its hostages or freeing Lebanese or Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails should not be regarded as a condition for releasing Western hostages. Apart from that, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always stressed it has had no role and no involvement in hostage-taking in Lebanon, and that the motivation and reason for kidnapping a number of foreign nationals in Lebanon concern a number of organizations who have taken that action. It is clear the main reason for hostage taking is the oppression and tyranny inflicted by Western arrogance upon the wronged Lebanese nation.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the guardian and base of the Islamic revolution and the revolution of the deprived and the oppressed, naturally enjoys this spiritual domination and strength to be able to interfere in the human difficulties of other nations and, at least, with her recommendations, may help solve this kind of problems. Despite the propaganda of international monopolies, however, this never means Iran itself has

been involved in such action, or that it expects to achieve its rights through such actions.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed this point by saying: From the beginning we announced we wish to help as much as we are capable in releasing the hostages. We do not own the hotage takers. They are oppressed and wronged people who, due to various motivations, are holding the hostages. He later pointed out Iran's involvement in freeing hostages is due to its duties for the sake of humanity [human or moral duties] and for the sake of principles, and not for the sake of the United States.

Therefore, it is clear Iran's effots for releasing a number of hostages should be evaluated purely within a humane framework and not within a bargaining framework.

At the same time it is said that under the present conditions, to improve her political situation during the reconstruction, improve her political situation among the governments of the world, or for making progress in peace talks, Iran is forced to turn to the West, especially to the United States. There naturally are different views on how the country's current problems should be solved. But can this be regarded as the absence of unity and agreement among the leaders of the country?

In his speech yesterday the leader of the revolution stressed if anyone has listened to the propaganda of the enemies, one will have noticed that most of their emphasis is on two points: one is the existence of differences [among the leaders of the regime] and the other is that Iran's economic situation is such and such.

In view of the remarks and admonitions of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni], the illustrious leader [Khamene'i] and other responsible officials of the country, and in view of the experiences both before and after the Islamic revolution, it is clear the existing problems to a large extent are due to U.S. policies against our country. The imposed war, economic embargo, economic pressures, the reduction in the price of oil, and many other issues point to different policies which are imposed upon the Islamic Republic of Iran by Western imperialism. Now, for the sake of the removal of these difficulties, can one turn for help to those very people who have given rise to and have perpetuated those difficulties?

Naturally we should solve our problems, but we are the ones who should find a solution to these problems and find how to implement this solution. From the beginning of the revolution, the advice of the imam, his soul be sanctified, and other responsible officials of the country has been that we should have faith that the Islamic Iran is a powerful country in the world and that the propaganda of [world] arrogance should not frighten us or give rise to a feeling of weakness within us toward them. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i graciously said: A revolutionary country, too, within its own sphere [of influence] will be able to push the United States back or to halt its advance. They are not invincible as they pretend.

Hizballah Urges Release of Detainees in Israel

NC0305184090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Lebanon's Hizballah has called for the release of Lebanese and Palestinian hostages held by the Zionist entity.

Our correspondent in Beirut says a senior official in Lebanon's Hizballah stressed today that America must pressure the Zionist entity to release the Lebanese and Palestinian hostages.

The Hizballah official said the Zionist prisoners of war in Lebanon were captured by Islamic and nationalist forces during the Zionist aggression against Lebanon, while the Muslim detainees, especially Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, were kidnapped from their towns. He added that if America does not pressure the Zionist entity to release the Muslim hostages, then the groups that are struggling against America and the Zionists will have the right to attack American interests world-wide.

'Legal Topics' Discussed With U.S. at Talks

LD0305192390 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA—A delegation representing the Islamic Republic of Iran in legal talks with the U.S. at the International Court of Justice said on Thursday that only legal topics, and nothing else, have been brought up in the negotiations.

In a statement issued in The Hague, the delegation pointed out that the Iranian and U.S. Governments have gone to arbitration for settlement of the claims existing between them and between the subjects of the two countries against the other government, according to the 1981 Algiers accord.

Over the past nine years, the statement said, a large number of the said claims have been settled through negotiations between the representatives of the parties to the dispute.

"The ongoing negotiations between the representatives of the two governments, like the previous ones, are aimed at settling some other financial claims pending at The Hague," it said, "No other topics either political or economic have been, or will be, discussed." Ali Noubari, liaison between the Iranian delegation and The Hague court, in a telephone contact with IRNA headquarters in Tehran, said "the negotiations focus on the legal disputes between Iran and the U.S."

He said the judges who are hearing the claims at The Hague court are from Iran, the U.S. and third countries, adding that at the end of each round of talks, the date of the next round was set.

The new round of the talks started on May 1 and the Iranian delegation to the negotiations is led by Gudarz Eftekhar-Jahromi, advisor to president Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in legal affairs.

Mohtashemi Rejects Ties With U.S.

NC0305172590 Tehran SHAHED in Persian
21 Mar-21 Apr 90 pp 17, 18, 47, 64

[Article by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi: "Effacing the Imam—A Precursor to the Revival of American-style Islam." SHAHED editor's note: "SHAHED magazine will be carrying a series of articles on the viewpoints of those individuals who are adherents of pure Muhammadan Islam and the ideals of the imam, in order to combat the trend of American-style Islam."]

[Text] Nine months have passed since the demise of the late imam and there have been various discussions and rumors concerning such matters as relations with the United States, the fate of the revolution in the absence of the imam, policy changes, and so on. In light of this, the following points are worth noting:

An Assessment of the Revolution's Successes:

1. Basically, in an assessment of the successes of the revolution in the past, we should differentiate between the revolution and the officials. There is no doubt that there is a difference between the views, insight, and actions of his eminence the imam (may God be pleased with him) and the views, insight, and actions of the officials. Whenever the imam took policymaking and, occasionally, executive tasks into his own hands, tangible short- term and long-term successes were the result. Whenever the officials on occasion acted against the principles of the revolution and the policies of the imam, we encountered retrogression, defeat, and failure in the administration of the country and in most economic and political internal and foreign policies.

Whenever our approach was revolutionary and based on the principles, values, and criteria of the revolution, and we raised slogans and acted accordingly, we were successful. Whenever we adopted a policy or program conflicting with the principles or criteria of the revolution—whether out of personal weakness or the inability correctly to gauge the principles and criteria of the revolution—we suffered defeat, we failed, and difficulties occurred for the revolution and the country.

It would be an injustice to the revolution if some individuals were to come forward and endeavor to conceal their weaknesses and erroneous actions under the cover of problems stemming from a revolutionary course of action, saying that since we adopted the revolutionary procedure and acted accordingly these problems have arisen.

It would be an injustice to the people, country, and revolution if we were to come forward and confess that we have been incapable of implementing the revolution and of correctly administering the country. The best excuse would be attribute it to the problems of war and the foreign policy we adopted. Of course, one should not forget that there are also numerous strong points in the achievements of the first decade of the revolution, along with the weaknesses that exist in the system.

There is no country and no government in the world that has been able to carry on administering the country in conditions of war without any foreign assistance. However, we were able to administer the country for eight years without any foreign assistance and in a state of war. We were able to stand on our own feet without any foreign borrowing. This is one of the strong points in our performance in the first decade of the revolution.

There have been many strong points, including the participation of our people in fighting the war, combating the United States, and exporting our revolutionary and religious thought to the world, especially the oppressed nations. Other strong points are the establishment of the Hezbollahi cells all over the world, the shattering of the pride of the superpowers, and the influence exerted on the regional policies of the powers of world arrogance. We could also mention numerous other successes.

2. As regards economic issues, first we must mention that, in the past, instead of investing in cooperatives, the government and the organizations diverted most of the problems toward the government sector. Since the government sector did not have the facilities for providing an umbrella for all the country's potentials, the private sector availed itself of the remaining possibilities, which were also numerous.

Some people wanted to know why, if the thesis of the Constitution and the revolution had been correct, in the 10 years that everything was in the government's hands the private sector proliferated with spore-like rapidity and the liquidity rate of the private sector reached 1,400 billion tumans, when the rate was not even one third of this in the private sector in the early days of the revolution.

The main reason for this is that we did not try to implement what had been specified by the revolution, Islam, and the Constitution; that is, we did not even attempt to activate the cooperatives sector. During the era of the martyr Beheshti, who stressed the need for cooperatives, we saw that in a short time the problem of unemployment was greatly reduced by the establishment of 3,000 to 4,000 cooperatives, and 30,000 to 40,000 unemployed diploma holders were absorbed from all over the country. In general, we also increased production.

In the first decade of the revolution we caused a great deal of wastage by attempting to nationalize everything, but as we were unable to nationalize everything, and we did not have the power to control it, the private sector amassed immense benefits and was able to get its claws into the country's economy. Today, we are making the same mistake again, as the benefits that should accrue to the common people are once again being placed at the disposal of the private sector. We are talking of collecting the capital floating around and of utilizing it; once again

the profits from it will go into the pockets of a certain group and the common people will not be able to benefit from this program.

The Role of Planning and Slogans in the Revolution:

3. We formulated a series of slogans and acted upon them. The imam and the revolution's leadership propounded general principles and policies in most cases, and intervened whenever they sensed that the management of society was becoming enmeshed in internal as well as external problems. Thus, our slogans were vindicated and our programs were recommended and implemented by authorized bodies for the correct comprehension of the principles of the revolution, or the imam personally intervened in the planning. For example, the principle of neither East nor West was propounded by the imam as a general policy.

However, in specifying this principle, some officials faced ambiguities and it was here that the imam was forced to specify that relations should be severed with Egypt and that we did not want relations with the United States. Are these not the details?

For example, the principle of "Death to the United States" was formulated by the imam himself. There were those who said that we should not raise this slogan and create enemies for ourselves, but should instead merely implement it in practice and become self-sufficient and totally independent of the United States. In this way, the principle would have been put into practice. The imam, however, even opposed these persons.

Slogans are one of the principles of the revolution. If the slogan of "Death to America" had not been raised, then the people would not have known who was their enemy. The people should know what the United States really is. Its crimes should be proclaimed and the people should utter the slogan of "Death to America" with all their might so that they may take a practical step against the United States. Unless you make your children scared of a ferocious animal, it is possible that they will go toward it and be maimed by it, as they are not aware of the animal's nature.

We have raised this slogan on numerous occasions, we have acted on it, and we have said: "Death to America." We have exposed America's visage in society and before the people. In this way, U.S. hostility and malice may be confirmed in the hearts and minds of the people and they will not lean toward the United States. Then, if there are people who are affiliated with the United States and are desirous of resuming ties with the United States, they will not dare to do so in view of the vigilance and awareness of the people and will not allow themselves to enter the dangerous abyss of closeness to the United States.

My second argument is that we should curtail our dependence on the outside world. The path that we can adopt to attain this merits discussion here. Some say—and this has also been mentioned in the Five-Year Plan—that the country should be industrialized and the country's production should thus be boosted. As regards the industrialization of the country and the boosting of domestic production, no one disputes that. It would however be ideal if we could also have our own industrial technology so as not to be dependent on any foreign country. Thus we could boost domestic production. No one can oppose this point. However, which course should we take to sever dependence? Should we seek to acquire industrialization and the science of industrialization or should we merely seek an assembly-line type of industry?

The United States and the West will never give us the technology. What they are trying to inject into the Third World is the assembly-line type of industry, which will be entirely dependent on them. In this way they will have two functions: First, they will wrest agricultural self-sufficiency from the Third World, so as to make the Third World dependent on them for foodstuffs. Second, whatever will be substituted for agriculture will in fact be aimed at creating greater dependency on the United States.

I believe that, for most of the slogans that we formulated, we also had a program which we implemented, otherwise the slogans would have remained mere slogans. This is the reason we had a program and we managed to implement these slogans.

In the field of foreign policy, we can mention the following slogans, with the practical implementation that accompanied them, such as the severance of ties with the United States, the expulsion of the Soviet diplomatic spies, the cutting off of relations with those Muslim regimes which had ties with Israel, such as Egypt, Morocco, and others, and a practical approach to the Palestinian issue. In the domestic sphere, there was the practical defense of the oppressed and the deprived by the establishment of the Oppressed Foundation, the Housing Foundation, the imam's aid committee, and other similar organizations.

In view of the above, it is my opinion that certain officials who have to implement programs reflecting Islamic objectives are weak. This is because some unsuitable elements and some who have not tasted the tribulations of the deprived have infiltrated into most official posts. For this very reason, the imam said: Do not give positions to those who are incompetent. They will either destroy the revolution or they will not be able to comprehend the deprivation and oppression of the people and, in both cases, the objectives of the revolution will not be attained.

Of course, these elements have to some extent been weeded out from some of the country's managerial posts, but some of them are still around and unfortunately this purge of key posts has not been 100 percent completed. This could be the reason why this program has not been implemented; that is, because we did not have programs to back up some of our slogans. Naturally, these unsuitable elements are at the helm in certain affairs which

should only be planned in a revolutionary manner, and they are not keeping this in mind when they act.

The Future of the Revolution Without Imam Khomeyni:

4. The imam had a personality which permeated the very depths of the people's being in Iran and abroad. He was endowed with an extraordinary aura of holiness regarding theology as well as Islam. He had a charismatic personality which made the people accept everything he said with their hearts and souls; they saw no reason to violate his instructions. They just could not contemplate flouting his opinions or even consider such a thought permissible.

Now "he" is no longer in our midst. This has in fact created a major vacuum in the trend of our revolution, but this cannot be considered tantamount to a defeat of the revolution. It would be very simpleminded to say that the wave created in the world by the Islamic revolution can be stemmed with the departure of the one who created the wave or that the revolution will suffer defeat. The wave has been created and will take its own course.

The revolution has delineated a series of principles and criteria and, even if the imam is not there, those principles and criteria still hold good for the people and society. It is possible that, on some occasions, there may not be a person who will follow these principles or has the courage to implement them. The imam was the founder, the engineer, and the architect of the revolution and he devised its framework. If he were around, he would have been better able to safeguard the revolution and to preserve it. However, even though the imam is not here today, the revolution is. Those who wish to act within the framework of the imam's thinking should make the maximum effort to implement it.

As for what factors will be instrumental in perpetuating the path of the imam, it is natural that a certain set of circumstances should exist and a series of impediments should be eliminated.

Naturally, in our country, the factors for the perpetuation of the imam's path include the leadership after the imam, the upholding of the principles propounded by the imam in various fields, and the ensuring of the people's participation on the scene.

One of the issues that the imam was extremely concerned about was the problems of the people. If we think that we can continue in the path of the revolution and the imam without interest in and affection for the revolution on the part of the people, we are laboring under a delusion. We should strengthen all those areas which ensure the people's presence on the scene.

As for the impediments that have to be eliminated, they are: the concept of specialization without dedication, the presence of elements who do not believe in the revolution as regards the country's executive system, and the unconditional utilization of the services of experts without consideration of other constructive factors. It is these impediments which lead to the thwarting of the perpetuation of the trend of the revolution and the imam's mode of thought.

I have mentioned one law which is a condition for the perpetuation of the path of the imam. This is the strengthening of one set of circumstances and the elimination of a series of impediments. As to the reason why some persons do not permit the inclusion of these other constructive factors, this is something that should be investigated and removed from the path. Naturally, if we cannot rely on the leadership and the presence of the people on the scene in pursuing the path of the imam, the revolution will not attain its objectives.

This of course does not mean that the revolution will be destroyed. The revolution continues to hold its lofty position. The people of every Islamic country are able to benefit from its principles and to forge a system in accordance with those principles, just as we have certain parties and groups in many countries which are striving to implement an Islamic revolution of the kind brought about by the imam.

On the basis of the above, if the revolution is to attain its objectives in our country, the path of the imam should be kept in mind, as it is a path which can be pursued through the combined efforts of the leadership and the people. With the elimination of one of these, we will encounter immense difficulties in attaining our objective.

In the various communications I received from Muslims and Islamic movements abroad, including the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslim forces, after the demise of the imam, a deep sense of defeat was conveyed. They said that with the departure of the imam we have lost everything. The Assembly of Experts then appointed a leader for the Islamic revolution and it was announced that Ayatollah Khamene'i was the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In those sessions, I said that the Assembly of Experts' task has two aspects: On the one hand, since the Assembly of Experts have been elected by the people of Iran, it is natural that they should appoint a leader after the imam's demise. On the other, as these Assembly of Experts also have to endorse the imam as the leader of the revolution and the world oppressed, it is natural that whosoever they appoint as the leader should be the leader of all the Muslims of the world, with regard to the imam and his endorsement.

Similarly, in their analyses regarding events in the aftermath of his eminence the imam's demise, the Western mass media claimed that the system would not be able to hold its own, and the appointment of the leader was a shattering blow to them. My interpretation not only inspired optimism among the Muslims of the world, but also doomed to failure the analyses of the Westerners who had claimed that after the imam the revolution would lose its leadership of the world.

Naturally, this idea took hold outside Iran. If those whose remarks are noticed in the various nooks and crannies of the world [Mohtashemi's allusion to himself] had not

made these utterances, it would not have been so effective. Let us bypass the fact that there are some who are only interested in themselves alone and are incapable of seeing the issues pertaining to the revolution in the world.

Constant Enmity Against the United States:

5. As regards ties with the United States, I am of the opinion that from the point of view of belief, from the revolutionary and ideological angle, as well as with regard to our national interests and our people, an embargo on relations with the United States is necessary.

With regard to belief, we reject all dependence on the satanic and arrogant powers and, reciprocally, they also deny and negate the values of our revolution. If we say that having ties is in itself a value, not an objective, such as the negation of dependence and affiliation with powers, then the principles of the revolution will be considered as a contradiction of those values, according to this rhetoric. We have no use for such rhetoric. For us, the mode of thought of the revolution and its principles are considered values and all those who oppose these principles and ideals are to be considered as opposing these values.

The U.S. stance against our revolution is similar, as it is not content with mere ties with Iran but is determined to destroy the principles and the mode of thought of the revolution. The United States will not forge ties with us as long as we pursue our revolutionary principles in our domestic and foreign policy. If it does, it will be in order to destroy us.

It is the same where national interests are concerned. If, once again, a nation that was under U.S. and British domination for more than 50 years and paid such a heavy price in order to drive them out of the country and remove U.S. interests from this country, wishes to reestablish ties, it means that these countries will return. These ties will not remain purely diplomatic and economic; other ties will follow in their wake.

Naturally, these ties would be of the kind that the United States has with the Third World and the countries of the region, the outcome of which will be nothing more than harm to their national interests. In addition, our country will then feel a sense of failure as regards the United States and the people will say: We struggled for decades and resisted the arrogant powers, but once again the United States has entered our country. Thus, neither our nation nor our ideological beliefs permit the establishment of relations with the United States. If one day this comes to pass, we should say our last prayers for the revolution as well as the nation.

The imam deemed ties with the United States to be impossible. First he said that the United States would have to "behave in a human manner" and then he said that "our ties with the United States would be like the ties between a wolf and a sheep." Is it possible that a wolf's nature will change? It is improbable.

The atmosphere that the imam created in the country is exceptional in today's world. First of all, the imam was a noble personality without any regard for the corrupt system prevalent throughout the world. He spoke clearly on all issues and did not have any fear, and his remarks found their way into the international community and the people of the world and obtained their own adherents. In addition, the imam also nurtured today's generation in Iran in such a manner that it is does not hesitate to speak its mind freely.

In the imam's lifetime, various newspapers tried to cast aspersions on the imam's opinions and criticize them, but the imam tolerated it. Till his last days, the Nehzat-e Azadi [Mehdi Bazargan's party], liberal and deviant groups, and others who were in Iran disseminated various statements and communiques. There was no restriction on propounding ideas within the framework of the system and all had freedom of action. In my opinion, it is a source of strength for the system that people are able to express their way of thinking in accordance with the path of the revolution and the system.

Such a clash of ideas and opinions in the post-imam era, within the framework of the system, is definitely beneficial, and serves to strengthen the system as well as to prevent any possible mistakes and errors.

Thus, in light of the above, if the real issues of the revolution were not aired, it is possible that the officials would come under a bombardment of propaganda from the Western media and might inadvertently, God forbid, fall into a trap laid by our enemies and put into effect by their agents and lackeys who are probably present in Iran. However, if there are individuals who will relay the opinions of these agents to the officials and the society, naturally the system will become invincible. This is not possible except by the expression of ideas by those who are devoted to the revolution and not attached to the material world.

All in all, I believe that a blow should be dealt to the interests of the United States and Israel in every manner possible.

The Greatest Calamity for the Revolution:

6. In my view, the greatest calamity for the revolution would be the "effacement of the imam" and the idea that, since the imam is no longer in the world, his way of thinking, his path, and his policies should be forgotten. This would be the greatest calamity to afflict the revolution, since it is only under the aegis of the imam's thinking and his moral presence that unity can be attained. If the imam's thinking and moral presence are not there then we cannot attain unity, and even if we endeavor to, we will be stricken with disunity right from the outset.

It is only by rotating on the axis of the imam's thinking and the values of the revolution that we can create unity and have our leadership and feel its presence. Only then

can we also have the presence of the people on the scene, and all the nations on our side.

Praise be to God, all the officials are the students of the imam and favor the way and path of the imam and such things will not come to pass. But if, one day, the effacement of the imam comes to pass, the revolution will suffer a real calamity.

Radical Faction 'Demanding' Mohajerani's Dismissal

TA0305181290 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The latest reports on the conflicts about direct talks with the United States, which are going on within the factions affiliated to the hierarchy of the Islamic Republic, indicate that the radical faction and the students of the Imam's line are demanding the dismissal of 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani from the post of vice president for legal and parliamentary affairs. This is while Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, in a blistering invective against the United States and those who favor talks with it, implicitly called Hashemi-Rafsanjani's vice president simple-minded and intimidated, and explicitly proclaimed his opposition to any talks with the United States. Khamene'i warned Hashemi-Rafsanjani: It is not possible for the Islamic Republic Government to do such a thing without my permission. I am opposed to talks with the United States.

In the wake of Khamene'i's severe warning, today Hashemi-Rafsanjani too, in a blatant retreat, stressed that his government will hold no talks whatsoever with the United States.

These reports add that 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, who had hoped to lay the groundwork for winning support for this project of the regime—direct talks with the United States—wrote another article in the ETTELA'AT newspaper on Tuesday, 1 May. In this article, while responding to the strong attacks by JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper, Khamene'i's organ, he defended direct talks with the United States. He added that this issue was raised in the Cabinet last Sunday, and that the president's view is that those who hold opinions should be able to raise these opinions in society.

U.S. Human Rights Report Said Causing 'Mistrust'

NC0305193890 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 May 90

[Unattributed political commentary]

The U.S. State Department's annual report describing Iran and Syria as states sponsoring terrorism created an atmosphere of bad faith and mistrust at a time when the Islamic Republic's recent efforts to persuade the Lebanese revolutionary groups to free Western hostages proved fruitful.

Although Western media circles—as usual in support of the U.S. authorities—have affirmed that the above-mentioned report refers to 1989, its release coincided with Iran's sincere efforts to establish and expand the principle of good faith in the Middle East.

The U.S. State Department's report to Congress is a clear indication of the arrogant nature of the U.S. Government.

Protesting the report, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has said officially in a press interview that America is a blatant example of state terrorism. He said that accusing Iran of supporting terrorism at a time when Iran itself was a victim of terrorism deceives world public opnion. Stressing Iran's clear and declared stand against terrorism, the Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesman said that the policies of America as an international authoritarian regime toward the Third World, especially Iran, are the full embodiment of state terrorism.

Pointing to the American state terrorism, the spokesman referred to the American military acts of aggression such as the attack on Panama, the intervention in Third World countries' internal affairs, the American armed piracy, and attacks on civilian aircraft. He said: What can acts to shake stability of sovereign countries, the use of force to change regimes in independent countries, the attempts to assassinate heads of state and religious leaders, the attacks on civilian aircraft, the taking of hostages, and other acts in which a large number of innocent civilians may get killed be called other than organized state terrorism?

The spokesman declined to discuss the idea that the Third World's concept of terrorism contardicts that of America. He said that, even by relying on the U.S. Government's various definitions of terrorism, America has employed and used all methods that match these meanings.

Political observers believe that the illogical annual report of the U.S. State Department actually belies U.S. Presidenbt George Bush's statement that good faith brings about a good faith. Besides, these observers believe that the failure to issue statements after this report or the failure to apologize about it will definitely affect the continuation of Iran's active and sincere efforts to solve the Western hostages crisis.

Commentary on 'U.S.-Israeli-Iraqi Conspiracy'

NC2904105490 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 14 Apr 90 p 6

[Unattributed commentary: "A Threat To Disarm Progressive Forces"]

[Text] Once more progressive forces have been warned by the great Satan not to continue their revolutionary policies which in principle call for confrontation against imperial camps. When Iraq's Saddam Husayn pledged to wipe out half of Israel with chemical weapons, he was hitting two birds with one stone. The despot was actually telling the Islamic Republic of Iran to mend its ways and

at the same time warning other steadfast groups to be aware of their actions. Of course he did so on the behest of his American friends.

It has been established without an element of doubt that the U.S. has spared no effort up till now to disarm Iran of its revolutionary character and bring the Islamic state in line with the reactionary bloc. To this end American policymakers have left no leaf unturned. Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 the United States, as a matter of policy, has used the resources at its disposal to portray Iran as a terror state lacking basic tenets of civilization. To crush the revival of Islam and send a message to those who look towards Tehran for inspiration, the present and past U.S. administrations have resorted to the worst forms of Iran bashing.

The most destructive U.S. policy against the Iranian nation was enmeshed in the war Iraq was encouraged to impose against Iran. A lot has been written about the 'cold war' between Iran and the U.S. and how the Americans at times directly entered into war with Iran to salvage the Ba'thist dictatorship in Iraq. During the Iran-Iraq war U.S. forces hit Iranian targets on several occasions and at one point shot down a passenger plane over the Persian Gulf killing 290 people.

Today, 11 years and a war later, the U.S.-led arrogant bloc has again come to realize that Tehran is not willing to compromise on its anti-imperialist stance. After subjecting the Muslim people of Iran to mind-boggling atrocities at the hands of the Saddam regime, the enemies of Islam and Iran see the need to also completely disarm the revolutionary state of its anti-imperialist slogans.

To achieve this goal Western propaganda organizations first 'started revealing' that the U.S. and Iran were engaged in secret negotiations to normalize relations and find a way to release the hostages held by Lebanese revolutionaries. The Arab media joined this band wagon in recent months and speculated on 'Tehran's decision' to resume ties with the U.S. by facilitating the release of the Western hostages. Some press reports and radio commentaries claimed that some European countries (West Germany and France) were engaged in mediation efforts between the two countries.

When this stunt proved useless, Saddam suddenly went on the air to threaten Israel with chemical weapons. Prior to the dictator's empty anti-Israeli remarks a big noise was made by the Zionist-controlled Western media about Iraq's attmpt to smuggle U.S.-made triggers for a nuclear bomb. Without having to mention it directly, the U.S. through Saddam was trying to convey a new message to the progressive forces in Iran. In other words, it was trying to tell the enemies of Israel and the U.S. to shut up and stop their campaign against Western interests.

Iran, and not Israel, was in Saddam's mind when he spoke of attacking with nuclear and chemical arms. This became clear on Sunday when Egyptian ruler Husni Mubarak emerged from a surprised meeting with the Iraqi despot in Baghdad.

Returning from a visit of several hours to Iraq and Jordan, Mubarak said Iraq wants peace and not war with Israel. For the first time in his political life Mr. Mubarak may have spoken the truth. Iraq on several occasions has implied that it seeks an understanding with the Quds [Jerusalem] occupying regime. The Egyptian president was underlying this impliction.

"I have spoken with leaders in the United States, some European countries and other states, and assured them that Iraq is not a country which wants or calls for war", America's most trusted ally in the Arab world said after returning to Cairo. The Middle East News Agency carried what it said were comments Mubarak made to Egyptian newspaper editors on the flight home as well as remarks made in a joint press conference with Saddam in Baghdad Saturday night.

In a bid to tame uncompromising factions in Tehran and other Muslim and Arab capitals, the U.S. has again decided to use Saddam's subservience and let it be known that Baghdad's nuclear, chemical and other destructive capabilities will be used against them. If there was an iota of truth in the Iraqi ruler's much publicized statements against the Jewish state, it would have encountered a different fate. Mubarak would not have run to 'deescalate the international campaign' against Saddam, and the Western powers would have already ordered a broadbased embargo against the Arab state.

Instead Mubarak brought a message from President Bush for his Iraqi counterpart 'clarifying that Iraq is not the target of a Western campaign'. Iraq says it has been subjected to an anti-Iraqi campaign by Western countries since it ignored international pleas and hanged a London-based reporter whom it convicted of being a spy.

By embarking on a false propaganda initiative against Israel, Saddam has knowingly done a great service to the Zionist state. Israeli officials are exploiting the well-coordinated Iraqi statements to the fullest. By highlighting the false threat against its illegitimate existence, Israel is calling on its Western allies to rush more military, technological, financial and diplomatic aid to the occupying power. Zionist lobbies in the Western hemisphere have multiplied their efforts to attract more money and sympathy for the Israeli cause at a time when more and more Western governments have express doubts about Israeli intentions and some have publicly condemned Tel Aviv for planning to house Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Revolutionary organizations and liberation movements will not forget that the great powers—United States, Britain, France, and China—gave Saddam the missiles, chemical and nuclear technology which he used without hesitation during the eight-year-old Iran-Iraq war. Progressive forces need not indulge in second thoughts about the real intnections behind the latest Iraq-Israel

propaganda war. Unity, self-reliance and a more determined effort to fight foreign domination will be the response of the anti-imperialist forces to the latest U.S.-Israeli-Iraqi conspiracy.

Mohtashemi Urges Foiling of U.S., Zionist 'Plots'

NC2804170790 Paris AFP in English 1558 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 28 (AFP)—A leading Iranian hardliner has urged Islamic forces to foil what he called U.S. and Zionist plots against the Muslim world, the daily Kayhan reported Saturday. Former interior minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi urged revolutionary forces to preserve the Islamic revolution's identity, national and cultural interests in the Islamic world.

Mr. Mohtashemi, now an MP for a Tehran constituency, said "the United States and the West have tried to present Iraqi President Saddam Hussayn as an anti-Zionist and progressive figure in the region." He urged revolutionary forces in the Islamic world to be on their guard against such a "trap" set by Washington.

The eight year Gulf war between Iran and Iraq came to a halt with a cease-fire in August 1988.

Mr. Mohtashemi accused Egyptian President Husni Mubarak of stage-managing developments in the Middle East and said that "Western and American secret services had turned (Saddam) Hussayn into a multi-faced pawn in a bid to better penetrate the ranks of Muslim and Arab countries and to betray Islamic causes."

Mr. Mohtashemi and his supporters oppose the release of Western hostages in Lebanon, while Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani advocates freeing them and renewing U.S.-Iranian ties.

Calls Saddam Husayn 'U.S. Pawn'

LD2804195690 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA—Majles Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam Ali Akbar Mohtashemi today termed the Iraqi ruler Saddam as 'a multi-faced U.S. pawn.' Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi in a commentary printed in the daily KEYHAN here today said that recent Iraqi claims in the fields of military and missile advancements as well as threatening of the Zionist regime stem from the superpowers' efforts to portray Saddam as a hero and master of the Arab world.

'Supposing that Iraqi claims are true, is it capable of having access to military progress without the Western information, or is Iraq able to speak and act against the policies of the arrogant powers led by the U.S.?' he questioned.

Citing evidences of the Iraqi services to the U.S. and the Washington's all-out support for Iraq during its imposed-war against Iran, Mohtashemi said the main center of tension in the world is the U.S. itself.

'The U.S. in line with its policies in Palestine and Lebanon inflames tension in the Middle East through the Zionist and the Iraqi and other client regimes, however, the U.S. has to gain some so-called revolutionary prestige for Saddam in order to justify him in the Arab world.'

He said Saddam's anti-U.S. and anti-Zionist gesture has exactly been devised by the U.S. and the Zionist regime, and its aim is to bring Iraq out of its isolation among the Muslim and Arab nations of the region.

The deputy concludes from different political collusions and developments that Saddam is one of the loops of the string of the sold-out rulers led by the U.S, and that Western security and political organisations have cast different roles for Saddam including the gendarme of the region.

Elsewhere Mohtashemi termed these measures 'a premeditated plot' aimed at harming Muslims and the Muslim world, and proposed that 'we should vigilantly get rid of this particular trap set for the Muslim and revolutionary forces.'

Yazdi Says U.S. Resolution on Jerusalem 'Illegal'

LD2904225490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Excerpt] A consultative meeting of the judicial power authorities was held this morning chaired by the head of the judicial power, Mr. Yazdi. In the course of this meeting, Mr. Yazdi first offered congratulations to the world's Muslims, particularly the people of Iran, on the auspicious occasion of 'Id al-Fitr. Referring to the need for supporting the struggle of the people of Palestine, Mr. Yazdi said: The uprising of the Muslim Palestinians against the occupying regime of Jerusalem should continue.

The head of judicial power referred to the resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of the occupying regime. He said: Legally this U.S. House of Representatives resolution is not valid and is an illegal action. Mr. Yazdi added: As the Vali-ye Amr [guardian of the cause] of the world Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i has said: The Muslims should foil the complex conspiracy of protecting the Zionist regime.

About the events in Kashmir, addressing the government of India, the head of judicial power said: The responsible officials of India should realize that by violating the natural rights of the Muslim people of Kashmir and by resorting to harsh methods and suppression, over 1 billion world Muslims are pessimistic toward them and are filled with fury and anger.

While congratulating our country's Muslim workers on Labor Day [1 May], Mr. Yazdi said: Iran's toiling workers are playing an important role in the reconstruction period; greater resources should, therefore, be placed at their disposal, and the Islamic human rights of

this valuable stratum should be noted and given to them, bearing in mind the circumstances of time and place. [passage omitted]

Afghan Coalition Rejects BBC Report as 'Plot'

LD0305185590 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GM 3 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA—Vice-Chairman of the nine-party Afghan coalition Taher Zamani here today refuted a BBC report that the Kabul regime has agreed with the activity of the Islamic parties in Afghanistan.

'The mujahidin will reject any solution which fails to meet their objectives,' Zamani reiterated.

BBC reported on Wednesday night [2 May] that the Kabul ruler Najibullah has agreed with the free and open activities of Islamic parties inside Afghanistan.

'Najibullah's remarks on the freedom of the Islamic parties is a plot hatched by the U.S. and Soviet Union to sow discord among the mujahidin,' Zamani said.

Editorial Calls for Muslim Unity With Palestinians

NC3004121890 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Muslims Unite To Liberate Bayt al-Maqdis"]

[Text] Some 40 years ago. The superpowers reached an official compromise at the United Nations to divide the state of Palestine into two Arab and Jewish sectors. Ever since, the Zionists have always been after extending their domain of influence. The Zionists' strategy of expansion is based on two factors, namely the Jewish exodus and occupation of new lands.

In its invasion of Lebanon, the Zionist regime occupied some areas in the south of the country and ever since it has been planning to oust the Muslims and replace them with the Jews. Earlier Israel had occupied areas in Egypt and Syria (the Sinai and the Golan Heights), and now it is the turn of Jordan.

According to the 1984 division plan, Bayt al-Maqdis [Jerusalem] was declared to be a neutral zone but in the 1967 war half of it went to Israel and the other half to Jordan. And now a plan has been seriously raised for turning the city to the Zionist regime's capital, something which has even been approved by the U.S. Senate. Another scheme is under way to expel the Palestinians to Jordan and later attack them on the pretext of insecurity at Israeli borders.

Under such circumstances, an artificial "government" crisis is created in Israel to engage the Arab states and compromising Palestinian groups. As the Jewish influx from the Soviet Union is continuing at great pace there is no "government" in Israel to be responsive for what is happening.

The scenario is that neither the Likud nor the Labor are able to form a government while before that they shared ministerial posts in a political coalition.

To form a greater Israel, the Tel Aviv regime needs artificial and real crises in the Middle East. If the Iraqi regime did not invade Iran in 1980, Israel would not be able to advance as far as Beirut.

One of the main goals of the big powers in keeping Iraq's Saddam in power against the Islamic Revolution is to implement Israel's hegemonistic designs. Of course, the uprising in the occupied Palestine remains a big hurdle on the way of global Zionism's ill-fated intentions.

Every day the so-called human rights advocates in the world watch the employment of the most inhuman methods of pressure and suppression against the Palestinians. The governments which, under the cover of human rights, meddle in the internal affairs of other countries, have remained mum vis-a-vis the massacre of thousands of Palestinians who fall victims to the Zionists' ambitions. Tel Aviv has gone through all methods to quell the Islamic uprising but the intifadah still goes on and gathers more momentum with the passage of time.

The Arab states who should have normally extended the greatest assistance, financial and spiritual, to the Muslim people of Palestine, support those groups who are after compromise with Israel. There was a time when no Arab state would endorse negotiations with Tel Aviv leaders but now the Palestine Liberation Organization is begging the Israelis for "peace" and each day has to undergo more humiliation.

On the other hand, the U.S. which is apparently acting as a mediator between the two sides, is only killing time so that Israel could extinguish the fire of the intifadah and achieve its expansionist objectives. Washington extends an official aid of $3b to Tel Aviv annually, something which Israel's existence fully depends on. Another plan is under study at the U.S. Senate whereby the White House would provide Tel Aviv with another $400m for housing Jewish immigrants.

The Soviet Union too, which was among the first countries to recognize Israel after it came into being, has been lured on to agreement with the transfer of the Jews while the American and European Jews have no part in the immigration scheme.

Now what can be done to save the oppressed Palestinian Muslim nation? The fate of the Palestinian nation should be decided in Ramadan and on the day of Qods, the last Friday of the holy month.

By joining ranks and uniting under a banner, the one billion world Muslims can force global Zionism to retreat from its illegitimate demands.

Today, the Muslim people of Palestine are at the center of unjust pressures by the oppressive powers. Today,

Albanian Muslims in Yugoslavia, East Turkistan Muslims in China, Kashmiri Muslims in India, Azeri Muslims in the Soviet Union, African and Asian Muslims in France and Britain and many other places of the world, have tied their fate to that of the Muslim people of Palestine and a universal solidarity among them is taking shape. The first step to this end is to return the first kiblah of Muslims (Bayt al-Maqdis) to the Islamic world.

'Responsibility' to Kashmiri Muslims Stressed

NC2904111590 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 23 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Kashmir Crisis"]

[Text] The recent developments in Jammu and Kashmir have gained new momentum and the Indian government is trying to stop them by resorting to coercive measures against people there and divert attention from the real issues by preparing to go to war with the neighboring Pakistan which is accused of fomenting the present troubles.

The news reports coming out of Kashmir indicate that the application of military force for the purpose of suppressing the people by the Indian government has become a routine affair that keeps on taking more innocent lives everyday. The number of people killed in the unrest in Kashmir since mid-January have been placed at about 300 by news agencies but the real figure is claimed to be much higher.

It is clear that the events happening in Kashmir have roots in history and that the Indian government is not simply dealing with a few outlaw groups. The facts speak of a full-fledged popular uprising with an Islamic character.

The developments in Kashmir are progressing in a way that the increased use of violence by the central government and state officials can merely add to the extent of people's determination to carry on with their goal and will not serve in any way to calm or reduce the intensity of their anger. It is for this reason that, it seems, New Delhi has not chosen a logical and sensible path for the resolution of this deep-rooted crisis and is, on the contrary, advancing in a way that will aggravate the crisis and increase popular resentment. The coercive measures used by the Indian government against Kashmiris will lower the standing of the Indian Army to the level of a foreign, repressive and antipopular force and this is certainly not in its long-run interest.

Everything considered, because lives are concerned and Muslim people are being killed, the crisis in Kashmir cannot be regarded as something of national or local nature but an issue that concerns the whole of the Muslim world. Muslim nations and their governments have got definite responsibility in this regard and have to act accordingly.

Protest over the killings of Muslims in Kashmir by Muslim countries should never be interpreted as an interference in the internal affairs of India. Muslims and their governments have an inevitable responsibility of registering their protest and displeasure over the killings of other Muslims in Kashmir or any other part of India for that matter. On the other hand, the demand or the desire of the Kashmiris should never be regarded as secessionist tendency either. There are plenty of firm and logical reasons to demonstrate that their present unrest is a just one based on principles that the government of India and the local officials understand very well.

The proposed talks between the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan at the United Nations in New York on lowering tension over the disputed Kashmir region is a correct first step. It can help recede the war of words between the two countries that can turn into a disaster by error on miscalculation. A lasting peace cannot, however, emerge out of their talks unless the root cause of the problem are addressed and the Muslim Kashmiris are allowed to determine their own future.

As a former Pakistani official has rightly said any settlement of the Kashmir issue "must respect the wishes of Kashmiris for self-determinations". The Muslims in Kashmir hold the key to any peace between Pakistan and India and any agreement without their approval is doomed to failure.

Current Development Budget Figures Announced

LD0305193890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The country's development budget for this year is about 1,670 billion rials, showing an increase of 20 percent compared with last year, and about 60 percent compared with the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989].

According to a Central News Unit report, Mr. Nili, the deputy [managing director] of the Plan and Budget Organization, announced the news today. He added that the sum of $1.2 billion has been allocated for the materials required for the country's development projects this year. He said the sum of $1.4 billion has also been allocated for development and agricultural machinery this year.

Describing the country's aims and Five-Year Plan, he said that at present the government has 5,000 billion rials worth of incomplete projects which, if not operational, will result in losses amounting to 500 billion rials per year.

Commentary Describes Antinarcotics Programs

NC2804104990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0452 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] Last week the deputy commander for information and operations of the general command of the Islamic

Revolution Committee described last year's antinarcotics programs. Statistics show that 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] was the year in which the fight against narcotics culminated. It was during this year that 34 tonnes of drugs were found and that 19,000 drug smugglers and 66,000 drug addicts were arrested. Among the operations during 1368, we can list a total of 100 various operations in the border regions and deserts against the drug smuggling caravans.

Last year reports were published that drug smugglers altered routes after the drug enforcement headquarters took decisive steps. Large bands started fights. But after a while they saw that their caravan's routes would not be safe from the officials. The routes that were changed by the smuggling groups last year were mostly in the northeastern parts of the country. Meanwhile, Persian Gulf countries in the south started to report on increased operations by smugglers after the new war against drugs in Iran.

The new protocol between Iran and Pakistan on exercising more control on the eastern borders, cooperation in returning fugitive smugglers, for engineering activities, and increasing the number of border posts played a considerable role in the change in the smugglers' routes. Last year and early this year, mopping up operations of the desert areas also continued. Namely, last month patrolling and reconnaissance operations were carried out in Kavir-e Lut, Bardsir, and Kafut in Kerman province.

The drug enforcement headquarters has made new plans. During the current year the sensitive passes through which narcotics are carried will be equipped with modern installations. The records of all the smugglers will be computerized at the central headquarters, and the fight against smugglers and traffickers in the cities will continue. It is said that during the current year 100,000 addicts will be arrested and sent to camps and prisons. The executive and judicial aspects of the Val-'Adiyar programs, which will be continued until a solution to this social ill is found, are being intensified.

In implementing the antinarcotics programs, experiences should always be taken into consideration and effective potentials be increased. The drug enforcement headquarters will have to study the most recent practical and theoretical means for combat during the current year. Three points should be taken into consideration within this framework. The first point is the need to fight the the root of addiction and to control the borders carefully. No kind of drug cultivation or production is being carried out in our country now. The second point is the need to increase the number of rehabilitation centers for addicts, because any type of combat without rehabilitation will eliminate the reasons for the addiction. The third point is the need to fight the cultural and economic roots of the problem. By informing the youth of the destructive consequences of addiction, through correct teachings, and through suitable propaganda, individual inclinations toward addiction can be reduced. We can harness and uproot this problem is we continue a long-term struggle against it.

New TV Transmitter Commissioned in Khuzestan

LD0205185790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] As a result of the efforts of the unit in charge of repair and maintenance of the Voice and Vision's television transmitters in Khuzestan, a 10w satellite television transmitter with a radius of 50 km to carry the second channel has been installed and commissioned in Shahid 'Abbasput Dam, in Masjid Soleyman.

According to the Central News Unit, the inhabitants of Kushk, Andiga, and Shahid 'Abbaspur Dam regions wil be able to receive the second channel of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Channel 10.

Minister Inspects Military, Industrial Complexes

NC0405071290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Heavy Industries Minister Mr. Nezhad-Hoseyniyan, several ministry officials, and the managing directors of several vehicle-manufacturing plants affiliated with the Heavy Industries Ministry inspected the Esfahan military industries complex and the Seven Tir industrial complex yesterday. There they became acquainted with the two complexes' production, output, and standards.

The Central News Unit reports that during a meeting with officials of the two industrial complexes, the minister of heavy industries studied these plants' cooperation with the country's heavy industries and expressed hopes that close relations will be established so that products from these plants can be used in the country's vehicle-manufacturing plants.

The heavy industries minister also inspected the Esfahan tool manufacturing plant, the first tool-manufacturing unit in the country, and studied the plant's difficulties with its products.

Khorramshahr Gendarmerie Resumes Activities

LD0305194890 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzetsan Prov., May 3, IRNA—Khorramshahr's gendarmerie company was reopened today after 10 years, during a ceremony attended by gendarmerie commander Brigadier General Mohammad Sohrabi. Speaking at the ceremony Sohrabi stressed the crucial duties of the gendarmerie forces in protecting the country's borders. The Khorramshahr company is affiliated to the Abadan regiment, whose activities ceased because of the Iraqi imposed war.

This southern port city was occupied by Iraqi troops in November 1980, but Iranian Muslim combatants liberated it on 24 May, 1982.

Pakistan

Wan Li Heads Chinese Parliamentary Delegation

BK0305113790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, Mr. Wan Li, has said that the Sino-Pak relations have solid foundation and [words indistinct]. This he said in a statement on his arrival today at the Islamabad airport from Lahore as the head of a parliamentary delegation.

Mr. Wan Li said that during the visit to Pakistan the delegation would exchange views with the speaker of the National Assembly, Malik Mairaj Khalid, on issues of common concern and meet with other Pakistani leaders. He expressed the confidence that the visit would enhance understanding and friendship between the Chinese National People's Congress and the National Assembly of Pakistan, thus further promoting the development of Sino-Pakistan friendship.

Reviews Kashmir With Ishaq Khan

BK0305162290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpts] Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, and the members of the his delegation met with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. Welcoming them, the president said Pakistani-Chinese friendship has been growing from strength to strength, irrespective of the changes of governments and the vicissitudes in both countries, as they are based on solid principles.

Describing President Ghulam Ishaq Khan as an old friend of China, Wan Li said Pakistani-Chinese friendship has been growing with mutual cooperation in various fields based on peace, mutual benefit, help, and deep friendship. He expressed the hope that Pakistan and China can overcome all impediments and will always march shoulder to shoulder with each other.

Reviewing the Kashmir situation, both leaders stressed the need to find a quick and peaceful solution for the issue. Reiterating China's distinct stand on this issue, Wan Li apprised the president of his country's various efforts in this connection.

Wan Li renewed an invitation from Chinese President Yang Shangkun for Ghulam Ishaq Khan to visit the PRC and asked him to be chief guest at functions connected with the 11th Asian Games, which will be held in Beijing in September. He said Ghulam Ishaq Khan will be the only head of the state to be invited on this occasion.

Later the president hosted a luncheon in honor of the Chinese delegation. [passage omitted]

Earlier, in Lahore, the chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress met with provincial chief minister Nawaz Sharif and exchanged views with him on matters of common interest. On this occasion, he said he was very impressed by the excellent hospitality extended by the people of Lahore. He said it reflects the durable and deep friendly relations between the people of Pakistan and China, which has contributed significant results for peace in the region.

Speaks at Dinner

BK0405043290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, has expressed the hope that Pakistan and India will seek a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute. He was speaking at a dinner given in his honor by National Assembly Speaker Mairaj Khalid in Islamabad last night. Wan Li said that China is concerned over recent developments in regard to the Kashmir situation and appreciates Pakistan's approach of not using military force.

Referring to the Afghanistan question, Wan Li stressed the need for establishing a broad-based government there which will be acceptable to all parties. He said that this will lead to a peaceful settlement of the issue and aid in the return of more than 3 million Afghan refugees to their homeland. He said that his country, together with the people of Pakistan, will continue to support the just cause of the Afghan people in maintaining their national independence and integrity.

Wan Li said that frequent exchanges of visits by parliamentarians of China and Pakistan have played a positive role and that the recent establishment of the Pakistan-China Friendship Group under the chairmanship of Mairaj Khalid will help further promote mutual understanding.

In his speech, National Assembly Speaker Mairaj Khalid said that Pakistan is supporting the just cause of the Kashmiri people because of its commitment to a principle which is adhered to by both China and Pakistan. This reflects the common perceptions and mutual aspirations of the people of the two countries. He said that the people of Pakistan have achieved a parliamentary democratic system after a long and sustained struggle. The democratic government is endeavoring to solve the people's problems on a priority basis to revitalize the social welfare sector and improve the lot of its people. The National Assembly speaker expressed the confidence that Wan Li's visit will further strengthen the existing relations between the two countries.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad also attended the dinner.

Wan Li held a meeting with Mairaj Khalid at Parliament House and exchanged views on regional and global issues.

Yaqub Khan Reaffirms 'Peaceful' Stand on Kashmir

BK0405045490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to find a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue. In an interview with Kuwaiti television, he said Pakistan does not want war with India and is endeavoring for peace. Referring to the struggle in Indian-held Kashmir, he said it has emerged as a result of frustration due to the denial of the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people. This basic right of the people of Kashmir has been endorsed by UN Security Council resolutions, which are binding on both India and Pakistan. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan cited the statement of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar that the Kashmir issue is on the agenda of the United Nations.

Paper Calls for Review of Policy Toward U.S.

BK0405104390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The Policy Siege"]

[Text] It was an ominous coincidence that Pakistanis received the news of America's inability to continue to make its "best efforts" to maintain the level of military assistance committed for the on-going six-year aid package, the same day as they came to know through a Western news agency report of a massive Indian troop concentration close to the Line of Control in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Only days earlier, while recalling how Washington had cut off military supplies to Pakistan during the country's two earlier wars with India, the April 30 issue of NEWSWEEK noted that America's relations with New Delhi had warmed in recent years, and reproduced the "blunt warning" of an un-named senior State Department official: "If I were a Pakistani military planner, I'd take a lesson from history." Recent reports have also indicated that Washington has made it known to Islamabad that the current aid programme to Pakistan would be suspended if America were at any stage to find evidence of this country's involvement in the situation inside occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Read together, these warnings and developments amount to a virtual siege by the United States of America on the policy options of Pakistan's response to a situation which poses the most serious threat to our national security in the post-1971 phase. The most disturbing aspect of the scenario is America's consistent refusal to distinguish between the aggressive posture of India which is solely responsible for the current escalation of tensions on its borders with Pakistan as also along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, and the manifestly limited (some may say inadequate) measures adopted so far by Pakistan to repulse a possible Indian aggression. That the United States has continued to single out Pakistan's arm for twisting at this juncture is all the more unjustified in view of the fact conceded publicly even by Washington that this country is in no way responsible either for the indigenous uprising in occupied Kashmir or for endangering the regional security environment.

But the time does not permit of merely lamenting America's double-standards which are certainly not a new experience for Pakistan. The central question which the government of Pakistan must pick up the courage to face is whether it would permit the country's sovereign right to decide on matters of crucial national importance to be mortgaged for a largesse which at any rate is fast diminishing. Pakistan has done right not to interfere in occupied Kashmir. This policy is proper because it is dictated by the acceptable norms of bilateral conduct and most definitely not because an external power has forced us into a corner. Given the characteristic pattern of Pakistan-India relations and the volatile nature of the equation between the two countries these days, Pakistan simply cannot afford to accept such limitations on its policy options which could prove suicidal to this country's interests. Islamabad must wake up to the new global realities which offer a unique opportunity to deliver the country from America's apron-strings.

BBC Reviews Japanese Prime Minister's Visit

BK0405055090 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 4 May 90

[From "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The Japanese prime minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, has left Pakistan at the end of a two-day visit described by officials in Islamabad as satisfactory if brief. Pakistan's conflict with India over Kashmir figured prominently in his talks with the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto. But as Lyce Doucet reports from Islamabad, economic matters were also given high priority.

[Begin recording] Foreign Office officials described the few rounds of high-level talks as cordial with no major disagreements marring discussions with Pakistan's largest aid donor, which surpassed even the United States this year. Pakistan would have liked assistance for its program to expand nuclear energy. But Mr. Kaifu repeated the message he gave to India that Pakistan would have to first sign the nonproliferation treaty. Ms. Bhutto reportedly expressed Pakistan's view that it could not do this unilaterally, in other words if India didn't sign, and stressed that Pakistan would adhere to international safeguards. Still, Ms. Bhutto expressed her appreciation for Japan's financial support. At a state banquet in Mr. Kaifu's honor, she regretted that priorities in this region were, as she put it, gravely distorted by the burden of military expenditure. South Asia, she said, was still not receiving the benefits of the rapidly changing international situation—remarks echoing one of the main themes of Mr. Kaifu's South Asian visit that political stability and regional cooperation were important conditions for economic development. [end recording]

Abdul Qayyum: JKLF 'Harboring Terrorist Elements'

BK0305041890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The president of the Pak-occupied Kashmir [POK] has accused the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front [JKLF] of harboring terrorist elements. In an interview to a London daily, Sardar Abdul Qayyum said that he has ordered closing down of all the offices of JKLF in the Pak-occupied Kashmir. Quoting sources from POK, the newspaper says that 3,000 militants have crossed the border into Pakistan in recent months and according to reports shown on British and American television, India's charge that Pakistan has set up training camps in the occupied territory of Kashmir has been further established.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for DPRK Visit

BK0105030890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] An 11-member parliamentary delegation led by Sindh Assembly Speaker Syed Abdullah Shah left last night on a 10-day goodwill visit to the DPRK. The delegation will exchange views with DPRK leaders on promoting friendly relations between the two countries. The delegation will also meet members of Parliament of the DPRK and visit national and provincial assemblies.

Sri Lanka

Further on Visit by Japan's Kaifu

Support for Industrialization

OW0305180290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1603 GMT 3 May 90

[By Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] Colombo, May 3 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday pledged Japan's support for Sri Lanka's effort to build up its industrial infrastructure.

Kaifu, in a two-hour meeting with Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, also made a 230,000 dollar commitment to help Sri Lanka restore archaeological sites at Kandy on the central highlands of the country, the ancient capital of the Sinhalese dynasty, a Japanese spokesman said.

Kaifu and Premadasa met shortly after Kaifu arrived in Colombo from Islamabad for an 18-hour visit, the fourth leg of a nine-day tour through four South Asian nations and Indonesia.

Kaifu promised to send a fact-finding mission to Sri Lanka, possibly within this year, to find out more about the Sri Lankan industrialization project.

Premadasa also urged Japan to provide financial assistance to combat poverty in Sri Lanka and Kaifu promised to look into the matter, Japanese officials said.

The officials said the two leaders also welcomed the democratization process in Nepal and expressed their support for a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan.

Touching on Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict, Kaifu said the Japanese Government has been worried about the strife between Tamils and Sinhalese in the country. But he also reminded Premadasa about international criticism of alleged human rights violations in the government crackdown against Sinhalese extremists.

Premadesa presented an icebox containing four retinas as a gift to Japan at the end of the meeting. Sri Lanka is one of the world's largest donors of human retinas. Japan has so far received 2,800 retinas from Sri Lanka.

Kaifu, accompanied by his wife Sachiyo, is the first Japanese premier to visit the country in more than three decades.

Kaifu was met by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Witjetunge at the Colombo airport in a red carpet welcoming ceremony featuring a honor guard review and a 19-gun salute.

About 150 women in national costume welcomed the Japanese premier with a traditional Kandy dance.

He will travel on to Indonesia Friday morning, the last stop in a trip that has also taken him to India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Before leaving Islamabad, Kaifu bid farewell to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the airport in a warm send off ceremony also attended by Bhutto's spouse, Asif Ali Zardari, National Assembly Speaker Meraj Khali, and other dignitaries.

Kaifu and his wife had a private breakfast with Bhutto and her husband before setting out for Islamabad international airport.

On his way to the airport Kaifu took time out to mark his visit, the first by a Japanese premier in six years, by planting an olive sapling on the Shakraparian hill overlooking the Pakistani capital. Mrs. Kaifu lent a helping hand in planting the sapling, and Bhutto remarked that she hopes the tree will grow like the growing friendship between the two countries.

Leaves for Indonesia

BK0405044690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0434 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Colombo, May 4 (AFP)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu ended a brief visit to Sri Lanka Friday [4 May] and flew to Indonesia on the final leg of his five-nation Asian tour.

Mr. Kaifu, who arrived here Thursday, was seen off at the airport by Sri Lankan Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge.

During his visit to Sri Lanka, the first by a Japanese prime minister since 1957, Mr. Kaifu held two hours of talks with Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Mr. Kaifu had earlier visited India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. He is due to return home on Sunday after spending two days in Jakarta.

Reaffirms Asian Interests

OW0405111590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0932 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Colombo, May 4 KYODO—The visit of Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to Sri Lanka has helped allay fears among government officials that Japan's interest in Asia would wane with changes in Eastern Europe, a senior government official said.

Bradman Weerakoon, international affairs advisor to Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, said Thursday that Kaifu's 18-hour trip had given him a good opportunity to get a comprehensive view of the island nation.

"Japan's commitment to Asia, particularly to Sri Lanka, will not diminish," Weerakoon said, noting that Japanese Official Development Aid (ODA) to Sri Lanka would increase this year.

Kaifu arrived in Sri Lanka on Thursday on the fourth leg of his five-nation Asian tour, and left for Indonesia on Friday.